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NEW SERIES.]

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OF

PRISON DISCIPLINE

AND

PHILANTHROPY.

PUBLISHED ANNUALLY

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR
ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS,"
INSTITUTED 1787.

JANUARY, 1862.

PHILADELPHIA:

HENRY B. ASHMEAD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,

Nos. 1102 AND 1104 SANSON STREET.

1862.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.

When we consider that the obligations of benevolence which are founded on the precepts and examples of the Author of Christianity, are not cancelled by the follies or crimes of our fellow-creatures; and when we reflect upon the miseries which penury, hunger, cold, unnecessary severity, unwholesome apartments, and guilt, (the usual attendants of prisons,) involve with them, it becomes us to extend our compassion to that part of mankind, who are the subjects of those miseries. By the aid of humanity, their undue and illegal sufferings may be prevented; the links which should bind the whole family of mankind together, under all circumstances, be preserved unbroken; and such degrees and modes of punishment may be discovered and suggested, as may, instead of continuing habits of vice, become the means of restoring our fellow-creatures to virtue and happiness. From a conviction of the truth and obligation of these principles, the subscribers have associated themselves under the title of "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS."

For effecting these purposes, they have adopted the following CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, two Counsellors, and an acting Committee; all of whom shall be chosen at the stated meeting to be held in the first month (January) of each year, and shall continue in office until their successors are elected; but in case an election from any cause shall not be then held, it shall be the duty of the President to call a special meeting of the Society within thirty days, for the purpose of holding such election, of which at least three days' notice shall be given.

ARTICLE II.

The President shall preside in all meetings, and subscribe all public acts of the Society. He may call special meetings whenever he may deem it expedient; and shall do so when requested in writing by five members. In his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents may act in his place.

ARTICLE III.

The Secretaries shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the Society, and shall conduct its correspondence.

NEW SERIES.

NO. I.

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C+P

TO THE READER.

THIS being the first number of the new series of "THE JOURNAL OF PRISON DISCIPLINE AND PHILANTHROPY," some reference to the action of the Society in relation to the change from a "Quarterly" to an "Annual" may be looked for here. We may, therefore, just say, that the ground upon which the change was proposed, and the manner in which it finally resulted, will be found to be fully set forth in the latter part of the "Report," which is the first and principal article in the present number. This Report occupies so much space, that the "Editorial Board" have not deemed it expedient to include in the present issue much additional matter.

JUN 24 1887

R E P O R T .

THE Editorial Board, in the discharge of the duties assigned them, have prepared the following "Annual Report," which they beg leave to present to the Society for its adoption :

Introduction.—This being the first time that an Annual Report has become a part of the regular proceedings of "The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," it seems a fitting occasion to take a wider range than is generally done in the preparation of such papers ; and especially does it seem proper to bring into view the origin of the Society—the motives which prompted its organization, and some of the labors in which it has been engaged since its establishment, with the fruit of those labors. It will be seen that being but little known in the community, is not because it has been without vitality during its existence of nearly three-fourths of a century, but because it has steadily pursued its benevolent course, quietly and unostentatiously, not proclaiming its doings, or coming out before the public, excepting at such times as the accomplishment of some object of special importance required it.

Before proceeding in the narration, it is proper to mention, that the examination into the history of the Society during its earlier period, has been facilitated by referring to a pamphlet which it published about three years since, containing a sketch of its principal transactions from its origin to that time.

Origin and Organization.—It appears that on the 2d day of February, 1776, a Society of a kindred character was organized in this city, under the name of “The Philadelphia Society for Assisting Distressed Prisoners,” which, though not identical with ours, was imbued with a good measure of the same spirit, and may be fairly viewed as a forerunner. It embraced among its members some of the most prominent citizens of that day, and immediately commenced to carry out its benevolent purposes, and extended relief to many prisoners; but in September of the following year, the British army entered the city and took possession of the jail, which caused a dissolution of the Society, after an existence of nineteen months. The troubles resulting from the Revolutionary War, prevented any further organized action in the same direction for a number of years. But finally peace having been restored, and public attention having been again called to the condition of prisoners, and to the many abuses which existed, not only in the manner of administering the penal laws, but also from a want of proper statutory enactments—a number of benevolent citizens assembled on the 8th day of May, 1787, and agreed to form themselves into an Association to be called “The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.” This meeting was attended by twenty-five persons, and was composed of men eminent in the community for their general position, and their enlarged Christian benevolence; and, with those who came into the arrangement immediately afterwards as original members, embraced several who, through a continued career of virtue and usefulness, attained to a good old age before they were gathered to their fathers, and were consequently personally known to, and their memory is pleasantly cherished by, many of those still

active in the Society; and it may be said, as regards their example, that, "though dead, they yet speak." A few of those who were longest spared to continue their useful services to their fellow men, were William White, (Bishop) Thomas Wistar, Zachariah Poulson, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Thomas Harrison, Dr. Samuel Powell Griffiths, Isaac Parrish, William Rogers, Jacob Shoemaker, Thomas Rogers, Tench Coxe, Charles Marshall, and Joseph James.

The reasons which prompted the organization, and the basis of the action contemplated, can hardly be better set forth than by here introducing the simple, but eloquent preamble to the Constitution:—"When we consider that the obligations of benevolence, which are founded on the example and precepts of the Author of Christianity, are not cancelled by the follies or crimes of our fellow creatures; and when we reflect upon the miseries which, penury, hunger, cold, unnecessary severity, unwholesome apartments, and guilt (the usual attendants of prisons) involve with them, it becomes us to extend our compassion to that part of mankind who are the subjects of those miseries. By the aid of humanity, their undue and illegal sufferings may be prevented; the links which should bind the whole family of mankind together under all circumstances, be preserved unbroken; and such degrees and modes of punishment may be discovered and suggested, as may, instead of continuing habits of vice, become the means of restoring our fellow creatures to virtue and happiness."

The principles thus enunciated at the outset, have controlled the plans and efforts of the Society from its origin to the present time, and their truth and value have been abundantly confirmed by large experience.

The late venerable William White (Protestant Episco-

pal Bishop of the Diocese) was elected the first President of the Society, and held the office until his death, on the 17th of July, 1836, a period of nearly fifty years. The general sentiment of the community with regard to this worthy man, was beautifully expressed in an editorial notice published in one of our daily newspapers, shortly after his decease, of which the following is an extract:—"If he went forth, age paid him the tribute of affectionate respect, and children rose up and called him blessed."

Abuses in Prisons.—In the year 1773, John Howard, emphatically called "the Philanthropist," entered on his course of self-sacrificing, and almost unprecedented devotion to the interests of humanity, particularly as connected with Prisons and Penal Institutions generally. In the course of his examination into the condition of these Institutions, which he did by personal visits to most of them, not only in England, Ireland and Scotland, but in nearly all the countries of Continental Europe—he discovered that some of the penal laws in force were so erroneous in principle, and so evil and oppressive in their practical operation, that he was convinced they ought to be either wholly repealed, or so amended as to rid them of their obnoxious features; and also that there was a great want of salutary legal enactments, regulating the manner of construction and arrangement of buildings for Prison purposes, and establishing rules for their management when occupied. And in the Prisons he saw such an amount of abuse in their administration, and of misery on the part of those in confinement in them, as often shocked and deeply grieved him. Many of the scenes which he witnessed, and facts he ascertained, were truly heart-sickening. A few of which may here be briefly noticed. Speaking of the dungeons in

the Conciergerie in Paris, he says, they "are totally dark, and beyond imagination horrid and dreadful. Poor creatures are confined in \ them for weeks—for months together." In another of the Paris Prisons he states "that there are eight dungeons which open into dark passages. In four of these, 10 feet 8 inches by 6 feet 8 inches, I saw sixteen prisoners, two in irons, and all lying upon straw." In the course of his account of the condition of things at Liege, in Belgium, he says: "The dungeons in the *new* Prison are abodes of misery still more shocking; and confinement in them so overpowers human nature, as sometimes irrecoverably to take away their senses. I heard the cries of the distracted as I went down to them. One woman, however, I saw, who (as I was told) had sustained this horrid confinement forty-seven years, without becoming distracted. The cries of the sufferers in the torture chamber may be heard by passengers without, and guards are placed to prevent them stopping and listening. A physician and surgeon always attend when the torture is applied; and on a signal given by a bell, the gaoler brings in wine, vinegar, and water, to prevent the sufferers from expiring. '*The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.*'"

Let us for a moment look at the then condition of a few of the prisons in England, where we might have hoped to find a better state of things. Of Cheshire County Gaol, at Chester, he says: "Under the pope's kitchen is a dark passage, 24 feet by 9; the descent to it is by twenty-one steps from the court. No window; not a breath of fresh air; only two apertures (lately made), with grates in the ceiling, into the pope's kitchen above. On one side of it are six cells (*stalls*), each about 7½ feet by three, with a barrack bedstead, and an aperture over the door, about

8 inches by 4. In each of these are locked up at night sometimes three or four felons."

"In many gaols, and most bridewells, there is no allowance of bedding or straw for prisoners to sleep on, and if by any means they get a little, it is not changed for months together, so that it is offensive and almost worn to dust. Some lie upon rags, some upon the bare floor."

In the County Gaol at Carlisle,—in one room, he states,—“I saw three men and four women lodged together.”

In the County Gaol at Gloucester, “there is no separation of the women. . . . The licentious intercourse of the sexes is shocking to decency and humanity. Many children are born in this gaol.” Many similar instances of a violation of the rules of virtue and decency are recorded by him.

Evil of Association.—Howard early became sensible of the great evil of associating together prisoners of all ages, and of all grades of criminality, and frequently deplored its corrupting influences upon the young and less hardened and practised in the ways of crime; and he remarked that even debtors, when associated with the felons (as they frequently were), soon became equally depraved with the worst of the criminals. Seeing this, he urged separation, at night, as *essential*, and at all times as *desirable*; but he does not seem to have matured any plan of thorough separation, by which alone these influences could be effectually guarded against.

Beside from the first, communicating freely the wrongs which he discovered, as they came to his knowledge, in the year 1777 he published, in a large volume, his “State of the Prisons.” Thus the world was put in

possession of facts, many of them of so horrible a character as to awaken an intense interest, and enlist the sympathies of the benevolent on behalf of the victims of such wrongs, many of whom were really not guilty of crimes to warrant their incarceration; and even when guilty, they were still human beings, objects of divine mercy, and though they had by their conduct forfeited their liberty,—if the makers of the laws, and those appointed to administer them, did not feel the force of the Christian obligation, to endeavor to promote their reform and to care for their souls,—it was but reasonable to suppose that the common impulses of humanity would have prompted to extend to them at least as much kindness and bodily comfort, as are admitted to be due to the “beasts that perish.”

Prompt action for relief.—By the year 1787, therefore, society generally throughout the civilized world saw the necessity of a thorough reform, and legislators were prepared to listen to and favorably consider, propositions to enact laws, adapted to a wiser and more humane policy, and consequently our Society was organized at a time peculiarly favorable for the beneficent labors it contemplated; and as an evidence of the promptness with which these labors were commenced and practically carried out, for the relief of unjust suffering, it may be noted, that at the very first meeting, information being received through a member, that although an order had been issued three days before from the Supreme Executive Council, that a person who had been sentenced to death, but had been pardoned, should be released from his irons,—they still remained on him,—the subject was referred to an appropriate committee, who took instant and successful measures to relieve the prisoner from his fetters, and effect his discharge from confinement.

Early contribution to the cause.—As a very gratifying practical endorsement and encouragement, received by the young Society, just one year after its establishment, it is proper to mention, that John Dickinson and wife, then of Wilmington, Delaware (but previously of Pennsylvania), by deed, dated in May, 1788, after reciting the formation of the Society, and expressing their desire to promote its benevolent designs, granted to the Institution some yearly ground rents, issuing out of premises in Philadelphia, amounting in the whole to fourteen pounds ten shillings (\$38½) per annum, which sum (though not in its original form), still contributes that much towards meeting our annual expenditures. Several other benevolent individuals have, at different periods since, contributed liberally towards our funds, both by bequest and donation.

Considerations in relation to Penal System.—There is no reason to believe that the Society, when it first entered on its benevolent labors, contemplated directing its efforts towards the introduction of any new system, or effecting any general change in the then prevailing principles of prison discipline; but as their arrangements for securing efficient and comprehensive action within their own body embraced from the outset, a standing committee to visit the prisons and prisoners, they not only carefully examined and considered the provisions of the penal laws, but they had full opportunity of observing their practical operation upon the prisoners, and also of judging whether the gaols were so constructed and arranged as to adapt them to their proper purposes. On entering the prisons, the Committee saw in close association those of the various ages, from the comparatively far advanced in life, down to mere children; and from those long practised and utterly hardened in crime,

down to such as had made their first serious misstep, which may have been more from want of thought than from actual depravity of heart, and they soon became convinced, that if the community desired the spread of vice and wickedness, they here had schools admirably adapted to their purpose. Exactly in accordance with their conviction of what must be the result of this state of things, crimes were found to increase in number and boldness, and this association of convicts was apparently the only adequate cause which could be assigned for it. "This being the evil (to adopt the language of the 'Sketch' referred to), *separation* was the obvious remedy; and on this, therefore, as we shall soon see, they ultimately fixed, as the grand point to be aimed at. Thenceforth, *separation* and *employment* were felt to be the cardinal features of convict discipline; and even at that day it was maintained, that though the structures which this principle demanded, might be somewhat more expensive in the outset, they would, nevertheless, in the end, pay for themselves with large interest. In saving in police force; in the avoidance of conspiracies and insurrections; in the dispensing with violent and exciting modes of punishment; in the power to adapt the means of improvement and reformation to individual character and circumstances; in the exemption of the discharged prisoner from recognition by prison acquaintances; and in the moral and disciplinary virtue of seclusion in itself considered, were to be found a generous compensation for any extraordinary outlay."

Former severity of the Penal Code.—According to the penal code existing in Pennsylvania at the commencement of the American Revolution, nearly a score of crimes were subject to capital punishment. In 1794, just eighteen years after the Declaration of Independ-

ence, it was ordained that murder in the first degree should be the only crime punishable with death,—a transformation truly remarkable, as being accomplished in so short a time.

Many other features of the old code and its administration would, in these days, be considered in Pennsylvania to be highly barbarous; such as exposing the offender in the public streets, with the clogg and chain upon the neck or leg, and not unfrequently on both, or punishing by cropping or the branding iron, the pillory or the whipping-post, all of which were at one time conspicuous features of the code and its administration in our city; and thus the victim was exposed to the gaze and taunts of the rabble, and almost necessarily hardened by the cruel system, instead of being reformed. Ten years proved sufficient to change all this, and instead of these relics of barbarity, to introduce a more rational, humane, and Christian system, by which restraints and “punishments were adopted, better fitted to reclaim the transgressor, and not less effective in penal suffering.”

Reforms Applied for.—On account of this odious state of things, so abhorrent to the better feelings of humanity, the Society, as early as August, 1787, appointed a committee to inquire into the effects produced upon convicts, then at work in the streets, and also its influence on society, and to collect such observations as might assist in correcting any abuses suffered therein. As a result of their inquiries, the Society adopted a memorial to the Legislature, asking that private, and even secluded labor should be substituted for that which had been public and disgraceful in the manner of its imposition. They also suggested that the mingling of the sexes, and the use of intoxicating drink in the prisons, were evils requiring legislative remedy.

Abuses Indicated.—In the autumn of 1788 the Society indicated the following defects and abuses in the treatment of prisoners.

1. Insufficiency of clothing for the untried, and that clothes which the Society had supplied to poor prisoners had been exchanged for rum.

2. The daily allowance to persons committed for trial was only a half of a four-penny loaf, while those detained as witnesses had no allowance at all.

A stranger accidentally present at the commission of a crime, without friends to enter security for his appearance, was committed to jail for the benefit of the community, and suffered more than the actual criminal; and what added greatly to this grievance, he was afterwards detained until he paid the jail fees! The Society earnestly protested against this practice, and against detaining any prisoners for any such cause after acquittal. This was one of the abuses which Howard ranked amongst "enormities."

3. No provision was made for decent lodging; the inmates of the jail lying indiscriminately upon the floor, unless supplied with something better by their friends. It will scarcely be believed that, in the memory of persons now living, the male and female prisoners in the jails of this city, were allowed a promiscuous association, and were even locked up together in the rooms at night. The new Society remonstrated loudly, and the men and women were soon after confined in separate apartments. Almost equally incredible is the fact, that prisoners complained that they were not allowed to purchase intoxicating drinks where they could get them cheapest, but were compelled to buy them in the jail at a considerable advance. To obtain them, they not only stripped themselves, but when new prisoners were

brought in they took their clothing from them by force, and exchanged it for rum.

4. The indiscriminate intermingling of criminals, untried prisoners, and debtors, was another monstrous abuse, and led, in many instances, to the conversion of debtors and innocent parties into criminals.

5. Parents were allowed to have their children with them in jail, and young offenders were exposed to all the corrupting influences of association with confirmed and reckless villains.

6. It was presented as a radical evil that a large proportion of the prisoners were unemployed; and farther, it was maintained that labor, even in the public streets, was preferable to sheer idleness within the walls.

In view of these several considerations, and as the result of careful observation, the Society resolved that "labor in seclusion, and the interdiction of all intoxicating drinks, were the two principal elements of the desired reform."

Publications; and Reform of Penal Code.—From an early period, the Society had issued through the press, memorials and addresses in behalf of its objects, and in 1790 a pamphlet was published, entitled, "Extracts and Remarks on the Subject of Punishment and the Reformation of Criminals," 500 copies of which were distributed among the members of the Legislature, and other persons prominently connected with the government, with a view to preparing them to support such reforms as the observations of the Society had suggested to be necessary. As a result mainly due to the efforts of the Society, an Act was passed in April, 1790, to reform the penal code of the State, by which the principle of individual separation was recognized, though applied strictly only to "more hardened and atrocious offenders, who

are sentenced for a term of years," while the introduction of intoxicating drinks was prohibited under severe penalties.

Early Advantages of Separation.—Even this very partial separation resulted so satisfactorily, that one of its early fruits was the Act of 1794, by which it was intended that not only "the more hardened and atrocious offenders," but *all* convicts should be subjected to seclusion. But as the number of the cells was not equal to one-third the average number of the convicts (say thirty of the former to one hundred of the latter) the Inspectors were obliged to exercise their discretion. Some of the prisoners, immediately on their admission, were conducted to their separate cells, and remained in them until their discharge; and the remarkable and most gratifying fact is on record, (see Roberts Vaux's Letter of Sept. 21st, 1827, to William Roscoe, of Liverpool,) that *the cases thus treated were the only instances of reformation which continued throughout the lives of the individuals*, so far as they could be traced, or their condition ascertained by diligent inquiry.

Jailor's Fees.—In the year 1796, the sore evil and reproachful practice which existed, of the jailors exacting fees, as a condition of liberation from imprisonment, was taken in hand, and an adequate salary to the keeper was suggested as the best remedy, so that he might have no personal interest in any question affecting the liberty of the prisoner. This wholesome suggestion was not, however, at that time, as fully accepted and acted upon as its importance demanded.

Imprisonment of Debtors.—The broad and interesting question of imprisonment for debt, in its various aspects, came up for investigation and consideration by the Society in 1798, and resulted in an Act of the Legislature

in the same year, removing some of the most objectionable features of the existing laws on that subject.

Instruction of Prisoners.—In the same year, the duty of *instructing ignorant prisoners in useful knowledge*, which previously to that time had been almost wholly neglected, both in Europe and this country, took such hold of our Society that it not only drew forth warm expressions of sympathy in such efforts, but resulted in an agreement to allow compensation for services rendered in that behalf.

Vagrants.—In 1800, the *employment of Vagrants and Convicts*, and the expense of their support, were made a subject of inquiry, and resulted in some interesting statistical and other facts being brought into view.

Pardons.—The subject of Pardons, also, at this early stage of reformatory movements, was discussed by the Society with much interest, and it was its settled judgment that the exercise of the prerogative at all, excepting in some rare and peculiar cases, was of very doubtful expediency; and that in the manner in which, in point of fact, it was generally exercised, it was a positive evil, both as regards the prisoner and the community. Pardons, it is believed, are nearly, if not quite, as frequently extended to undeserving, as to deserving cases; and beside this objection, the mere impression on the mind of the prisoner that, by effort and importunity, and the aid of the requisite agencies, he may succeed in obtaining a discharge before the expiration of his sentence, keeps him in a state of unsettlement, which entirely unfits him for the wholesome influence which the prison discipline is intended to exert.

Prison Library.—One of the next prominent measures was the establishment of a *prison library*. The Inspectors agreed to pay the cost of a book-case, and a Com-

mittee of the Society was appointed to purchase proper books and frame rules for their circulation. In referring to the list reported, we find a large proportion of the selection was from the higher and more refined department of didactic literature, which, though intrinsically of undoubted value, we apprehend that many of the volumes were not adapted to the greater part of the class of persons for whose use they were intended. Even down to the present time, although the press is so prolific in its issues, and great judgment has been displayed in preparing books adapted to the various grades of mind, the task of making a selection is found to be very difficult. A large proportion of the prisoners, on entering, prove to be very nearly, if not quite, without literary culture; and their previous associations have been such, that the feelings and modes of expression which pervade refined society, are to them totally incomprehensible. As regards many of these, although they have in years fully attained to manhood, they are still merely children in mental capacity and training, and consequently books of the most simple and elementary character are alone suited to their condition.

Bibles for the Prisoners.—In addition to establishing the Library, it was at the same time agreed that the convicts and other prisoners should be supplied with Bibles and Testaments, and a Committee was appointed to report on their distribution and its results.

Digest of Penal Laws.—In 1810, the subject of a general improvement of prison discipline throughout the State was taken up, and a Committee was appointed to prepare a suitable memorial; but soon after, Jared Ingersoll, then Attorney General of the State, was commissioned to prepare a digest of its penal laws, and the suggestions of the Society were made to him.

Sundry Abuses Revealed.—"In January, 1814, the Grand Jury of Bucks County presented the scanty allowance to poor debtors, as a subject deserving the attention of the public authorities. Fourteen cents a day only were allowed for provision, clothing, bedding and fuel, and even this niggardly allowance was withheld from the debtor until the creditor received notice of his commitment. For some days, therefore, they might be exposed to extreme suffering, unless the jailor or some kind friend afforded them relief. The rations of convicts were one pound of bread a day, and six cents' worth of fuel, and one extra blanket in extreme weather. The subjection of persons committed for trial to the same fare as convicts, was also presented as a reproach to the community. It was, moreover, urged, that the manner and amount of the jailor's compensation should be such as to remove from him all temptation to benefit himself at the expense of his prisoner. This position, which the Society assumed many years before, is one which the most obvious principles of justice warrant. It extends to magistrates and arresting officers, as well as jailors. To none of them should there be offered the slightest temptation to distress or annoy those in custody, for the sake of profit to themselves."

Measures to Obviate Them.—Resulting from the facts and suggestions thus developed, measures were soon adopted by the Society for ascertaining the condition of penal institutions in other States, and steps were taken towards memorializing our own Legislature in behalf of desired improvements; but definite action on the subject was prevented, by various circumstances, until January, 1818, at which time a memorial was adopted, setting forth "the crowded state of the Philadelphia Prison, and the impracticability of reaching the true end of all penal

discipline therein, and urging the erection of penitentiaries in suitable parts of the Commonwealth, for the more effectual *separation and employment* of prisoners, and so proving the superiority of that system."

Western Penitentiary.—From the time that the principle of individual separation of convicts was recognized by the Legislature, in 1790, the legal provisions and the arrangements of the prison had been so defective, that a full and fair trial of the system could not be made; yet notwithstanding the impediments it encountered, its good results were so evident, that the Society deemed it proper to call public attention to the importance of extending it throughout the State. This being done, in the same year (1818) the Act was passed, authorizing the erection, at Pittsburg, of the Western State Penitentiary, "on the principle of the solitary confinement of the convicts, as the same is, or hereafter may be, established by law." In the passage of this Act, it is rather to be regretted that the term "separate" had not been used, instead of "solitary," as it would have more accurately described what is now emphatically called "the Pennsylvania System," and would not have been so likely to aid in the prejudice towards it, which is entertained by persons in other States and countries.

Inquiries from London.—About the same time Dr. Lushington, on behalf of the London Society for improving the condition of Prisons, then recently established, requested of our Society information as to the results of the melioration of our Criminal Code. The reply expressed strong confidence in the full success of the system, when the difficulties were overcome which resulted from the construction of the Philadelphia gaol, not allowing the fundamental principle of separation to be observed except to a very limited extent, and when

the new Penitentiary, then in progress at Pittsburg, was completed, the plan of construction of which being intended to especially adapt it to entire separation of the prisoners from each other.

Inquiries from New York.—About the same time, a series of inquiries, tending to the same point, were addressed to us, by a Committee of citizens of New York. The reply most fully sustained the efficacy of our more lenient system, so far as facilities existed to properly carry it out. “Were a Penitentiary established,” they say, “sufficiently large, and so constructed as to keep the prisoners separated from each other during work, meals, and sleep (in other words, perpetual separation), and if no pardons were granted except in extraordinary cases, its efficacy would soon be self-evident.”

They also referred to the difficulty of procuring suitable employment, the frequency of pardons, and the deplorable condition of discharged prisoners, as being very serious, but not really necessary evils. They regarded the suggestion to extend capital punishment beyond its then narrow limits, or to resort to transportation, as being evidently inexpedient.

“The chain was also repudiated, and a fair trial of labor in seclusion from other convicts, with moderate diet, under suitable agents, was urged as the wisest, safest, most humane, most efficient, and in the end most economical mode of dealing with criminals.”

Memorial to the Legislature to establish an Eastern Penitentiary.—The investigations of the Society, and their observations of the practical effect of the reformatory suggestions which they had made from time to time, so far as they had been carried out, so thoroughly convinced them of the correctness of these views, that they addressed a memorial to the Legislature of the

State, in January, 1821, setting forth the tendency of the degrading and sanguinary punishments formerly inflicted to excite the malignant passions of offenders, instead of bringing them to a better mind, and thus frustrating the great ends of law; and then the various modifications of the system, designed to obviate existing evils.

These modifications, they alleged, had proved quite as valuable as was anticipated, and clearly demonstrated the superiority of the new system, if it were fairly tried. They, therefore, urged "the erection of a new Penitentiary for the Eastern District of the State, so constructed as to admit of the constant separation and healthful labor of the convicts." This was promptly responded to, and in the following May the law was passed for building the Eastern Penitentiary at Philadelphia, which is now the model prison on the "Pennsylvania" or "separate system," and as such, at this day maintains a prominent position among the penal institutions of the world, and stands as a noble monument of the liberality, humanity, and wise economy of its founders.

Abuses by Committing Magistrates.—In 1820, and also in 1822, the illegal and corrupt exercise of power by the Magistrates, which was most oppressive on the poor and helpless, became again a subject of inquiry, and a committee was appointed to confer with the Governor of the State on the subject, and a memorial was soon afterwards presented to the Legislature soliciting its interference to remedy the evil.

Discharged Prisoners.—In November of the same year a committee was raised to consider of and report on the project of establishing an asylum for such discharged convicts as might be unable to obtain employment, but it appearing that there were serious difficulties in the way of carrying it out at that time, it was abandoned.

Juvenile Offenders and "House of Refuge."—At a meeting of the Society, held January 28, 1823, a committee was instructed to "inquire into the condition of juvenile offenders, and what relief is needed in their case." This being a matter of deep interest, and requiring much consideration, from its inherent difficulties, the inquiries which were prosecuted from time to time, as opportunities presented, did not reach any definite result till January 21st, 1826.

At this time the committee reported warmly in favor of an institution for their reception, but expressed doubts whether the Society had the needful means to establish it, or the legal powers that would be required for its management. It was resolved to call a meeting of citizens on the first day of February ensuing, before which the subject should be fully opened. An address was agreed upon to be submitted to the meeting, in which a brief history was given of the melioration of the penal laws and institutions of the State, and of the encouraging result, and a confidence was expressed in a still further improvement on the completion of the two Penitentiaries—the eastern and western. "But," it was added, "as our true policy, as well as our manifest duty, consists not less in preventing crime, and checking the tendency to it, than in punishing and reclaiming the overt offender, the restraint and reformation of children and youth exposed to criminal habits, becomes an imperative obligation." They, therefore, earnestly commended the new project to the meeting of citizens to be assembled under their call. These views were cordially responded to by the meeting, and action being promptly taken, resulted in the erection of a "House of Refuge for juvenile delinquents," which was opened for inmates on the 1st of December, 1828, and the benefit the Institution has conferred on the community, and on the class for whose

reception it was intended, are generally felt and acknowledged. And it is believed that many individuals, who are now reputable members of the community, would have been at this time deeply steeped in criminality, and degraded outcasts of society, if it had not been for the protecting care and moral training of such an institution, extended to them in their youthful days, when first tempted to turn aside from the paths of virtue and rectitude.

Proposed Improvements.—In July, 1827, in anticipation of the approaching completion of the Eastern Penitentiary, the Society appointed a committee to prepare a memorial to the Legislature, setting forth the importance of carrying into full effect the *principle of separation, &c.* And in July, 1829 another memorial was forwarded, embracing the two following suggestions:—

1. That criminal courts be so organized, as that the prisons may be speedily delivered of all persons held to answer for offences, &c.

2. That provision be made for the complete separation of all persons committed for trial, or as vagrants, as well as those under sentence.

Publications Respecting the Separate System.—About this time much interest was manifested in relation to the character of the discipline to be established in the new Penitentiary, and it was found that conflicting views were entertained by persons prominent for their philanthropy, and their promotion of the valuable reforms of the day. Several of these advocated separation *without labor* as being most prompt and effectual in promoting the reformation of the criminal, and as admitting of a shorter term of sentence. It may be mentioned, however, as an interesting and important fact, that our Society never sanctioned these views. Its whole history,

almost from its origin, contains abundant evidence that a union of *separation with labor*, if not held to be a *sine qua non*, was at least deemed to be of the highest importance. With a view to preventing this division of sentiment on a collateral point, from in any way prejudicing the main principle of the entire separation of the prisoners, which was contemplated in the erection of the Penitentiary, a large edition of a pamphlet, (by our fellow member, George Washington Smith,) clearly vindicating what was known as the "Pennsylvania System," showing its humane and reformatory tendencies, was published and circulated.

Opening of the Eastern Penitentiary.—At length the time had arrived, by the opening of the Philadelphia Penitentiary, for the reception of convicts, on the 25th of October, 1829, when the principles of discipline steadily advocated by the Society for the preceding forty years, were to be practically tested under their immediate notice. Heretofore, the only instance of these principles being approximately carried out in a building planned and erected for the purpose, was at Pittsburg, a very inconvenient distance for observation, and beside that, the attempt was there made to introduce the system of separation *without labor*, which, as might have been anticipated, did not result satisfactorily, and had been the occasion of exciting considerable prejudice against the separate system both at home and abroad.

Subsequently to the opening of the Penitentiary, some small defects in the structure and mode of discipline were revealed by experience, and promptly remedied as far as practicable. That some further improvements may yet be called for, not involving the fundamental principle of absolute separation, is not improbable, as we

have never claimed that our work was perfect. The Annual Reports of the Inspectors placed in charge of the Institution, issued since its opening, afford most satisfactory evidence of the soundness of the principles recognized in its discipline, and our Prison Society, who have with deep interest watched its workings for more than thirty-two years, not only have never had misgivings in relation to it, but have constantly to the present time, been strengthened in the conviction of its being the true system. We are so well convinced of this, that it is deemed worth while, at this point, to introduce a short notice of the system itself; especially as we are aware that many persons both in this country and in Europe, are opposed to its introduction, mainly, as we believe, from a misapprehension of what the system and its results really are. We are the more prompted to this, from a belief that the cause of humanity and of Christian philanthropy, the good of the prisoner and of the community alike unite in calling for its general introduction. This notice, which from the character of the occasion, must necessarily be very brief, may partly assume the form of contrasting it with what is known as the "Auburn," or "*Congregate, silent system*," which is generally believed to approximate most nearly to it.

What the Pennsylvania System is.—The basis of our system is, AN INDIVIDUAL CELL FOR EVERY PRISONER, AND THAT EACH PRISONER SHALL BE KEPT WHOLLY SEPARATE FROM EVERY OTHER PRISONER, DAY AND NIGHT, DURING THE ENTIRE TERM OF CONFINEMENT. The thorough separation here spoken of, must not be misunderstood, however, to mean, or to be, as has been charged, "perpetual solitude," or "total isolation from the whole world." The law never designed that it should be so, and its actual character in its practical working is very different from this. It is not

society in itself, or intercourse with his fellow-men (excepting, so far as its privation might be salutary as a punishment,) that is denounced by the system, but it is association and companionship with criminals,—with the depraved and wicked,—which it is believed, the good, both of the criminal and of the community into which he is to return upon the termination of his sentence, requires, should be utterly prohibited. The social intercourse under this system, is, in point of fact, abundantly sufficient for the health, both of body and mind. Beside that which takes place between the prisoners and the resident Officers and the Inspectors of the prison, by which means each convict receives several visits every day. The following are named by law as “official visitors,” who have a full legal right to visit the penitentiary and enter the cells of the prisoners whenever they shall think proper, to wit: “the Governor, Speaker and members of the Senate, the Speaker and members of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Judges of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General and his deputies, the President and Associate Judges of all the Courts of the State, the Mayor and Recorder of the cities of Philadelphia, Lancaster and Pittsburg, Commissioners and Sheriffs of the several counties, and the Acting committee of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.” The last of these, as we shall see in the progress of this report, availing themselves of this authority, are untiring in their efforts to promote the social, moral and religious welfare of those confined in our penitentiaries and jails. Thus, by our system, instead of the society of the ignorant, the degraded and the criminal, whose efforts would be directed to dragging them down to still lower depths of vice and infamy, than they might yet have reached;

we give them that of the virtuous, the intelligent and the good, who not only make it their business to see that they have the bodily comforts to which they are entitled; but who are desirous of promoting their reformation with a view to their own real good through the remaining term of their lives, and to securing society against renewed depredations from them after their discharge; and above all, that they may be instrumental, under the divine blessing, in bringing these poor wanderers and outcasts, into a true sense of their past sinfulness, that they may in condescending mercy, be yet brought, by repentance and amendment of life, to work out their soul's salvation.

There is a keeper to every division of about thirty prisoners, and these keepers are selected with special reference to their fitness, on the score of morals, temper and intelligence. None of the keepers, or other officers in the penitentiary, go armed in any way, there being no occasion for it, as it is morally certain that no revolt, or insubordination, threatening violence, can ever take place. Each prisoner is fully sensible that an effort to escape, must necessarily be unsuccessful, and therefore, he never broods over its possibility, nor devises plans to subdue his keeper, or even murder him, if need be, to effect it. On the contrary, the whole system is one of kindness, it might almost be said, between the prisoners, the keepers and the visitors. The prisoner, knowing he is powerless, becomes passive, and there being nothing to rouse his vindictive or other evil passions, he is soon brought, in his quiet retirement, to view his past life in a very different light from what he ever did before. And also, as the society of the bad, which he formerly coveted and enjoyed, is shut out from him, his craving for companionship, soon brings him to enjoy the company

of the virtuous and good, which he formerly despised; and consequently, the instruction and counsel which is extended to him by his visitor, will meet with a reception and make an impression, which under other circumstances, we might look for in vain. And in the moment of contrition, when the poor outcast is brought to abhor himself, and would fain pour out his soul before God,—it may be in the presence of his visitor and religious instructor,—there is no hardened and depraved associate with him, to sneer at his supposed weakness and prompt him to reject the proffered mercy.

Here, also, the rudiments of education can well be imparted, and as there is nothing to distract the attention, the lessons make an impression such as is never witnessed in the community at large, much less in the congregate system of imprisonment. Our visitors to the Penitentiary frequently witness examples of this, which are truly remarkable. Many who had grown up without any literary culture, not being able to write or even to read the simplest matter on entering the Prison, in the course of even a few months have become capable of writing quite a good hand, and of reading with facility. Some of them, who in their previous lives had felt the process of education to be altogether a repulsive task, and therefore had failed to make any advance, and had even been brought to believe that the ability to read and to write was a mystery, which was, and always must remain to be, beyond their power to fathom—here find themselves to be capable of comprehending the lessons presented to them; and as the curtain begins to rise before this supposed mystery, they see, as it were, a new world open before them—what was formerly a dreaded and repulsive task, becomes a pleasant privilege, and they pursue with avidity the path to knowledge which

is thus opened to them. This change in their condition improves their whole moral character. Also, as time would hang heavily on the prisoners if without employment, they freely perform the work allotted them, accepting it rather as a *privilege and a blessing*, than as a *penalty*, as is the case under the congregate system, whether *silent* or otherwise. And, as it is with regard to what may be called common school learning, so it is in respect to acquiring a knowledge of the mechanic arts there introduced, being necessarily a few only—such as shoemaking, cane-seating of chairs, cabinet making and weaving. They soon become masters of these, and the task allotted them being moderate—after the accomplishment of which they are credited with “overwork—some individual prisoners, on their discharge, have been paid upwards of 250 dollars, which stood to their credit on the books. In a recent instance, a prisoner, on his discharge after a three years’ sentence, was so paid 213 dollars.

There is another point on which, we are aware, that many benevolent minds, who have merely viewed the “Pennsylvania System” theoretically, have felt much apprehension—which often amounts to a *conviction*—which is, that the mental condition of the prisoners, under its discipline, is liable to serious injury. This, we feel authorized to say, is a *fatal* mistake. We use the term *fatal*, because the adoption of this view tends to prevent the general introduction of the system, which we think is greatly to be regretted. A practical acquaintance with its working, proves this apprehension to be wholly unfounded. Close observation, specially directed to this point, with carefully prepared tabular statements of the mental condition of each prisoner on entering and on leaving the Eastern Penitentiary, (as also at interme-

diate periods) kept for a series of years, have fully established the fact, that the prisoners, instead of being injured, have been decidedly improved in this respect.

Its Result.—From the foregoing positions the result may thus be summed up: That many of those who entered the Penitentiary without any proper sense of their responsibility to their Creator, or their duty to their fellow creatures, have, as we trust, through the Divine blessing accompanying the instrumentalities surrounding them, attained to clear views and conscientious convictions on these points, and have gone forth into the world with firm resolves that—their Maker strengthening them—they would thenceforth do nothing which would grieve His Holy Spirit or wrong their fellow men. And that most of those who entered nearly destitute of learning, even in its simplest form, and without a knowledge of any trade by the pursuit of which they might be able to secure an honest maintenance, have emerged greatly improved in both these respects, and better fitted for the duties and responsibilities of life.

The "Auburn" or Congregate Silent System.—The principle of "separation," in the abstract, seems to be very extensively, if not generally conceded, both in this country and in Europe; but, on various pleas, it is but partially adopted in practice in the United States beyond the limits of Pennsylvania, and therefore, as we contend, fails in effecting the desired results. This partial adoption under the "Auburn" system consists of confinement in separate cells at night, but congregation in the workshops, or elsewhere, during the day—under the positive injunction, however, that when together, the prisoners shall have no communication with each other by word or sign of any kind, and this injunction is enforced by the presence of armed guards, and any breach of it is visited

by heavy penalties. This system is adopted on the strange plea that man is a social being, and he is therefore entitled to society as a natural right, not seeming to be aware that, by the restraints imposed, they entirely rob him of his social character. It reminds one of the Fable of Tantalus, the "Lydian King, who was condemned to be plunged in water, with choice fruits hanging over him, without the power of reaching them to satisfy his hunger or his thirst." Notwithstanding, however, the strictness of the watch maintained, the severity of the threatened penalty, and the example of the actual punishment administered upon those who have in any way violated this rule of silence, and non-recognition of each other when together—from the almost irresistible craving for the enjoyment of some of the rights of social intercourse, which is stimulated by being brought into the presence of each other—considerable intercommunication, by various methods ingeniously devised by them, it is admitted, does, in fact, take place between the prisoners. To enable the officers in charge effectually to prevent this, and to maintain the general discipline of the Prison, corporal punishment, it is believed, is deemed to be an essential part of the system, and this is consequently frequently administered with great severity. At the meeting of the American Prison Association, held in the city of New York in the Autumn of 1860, (at which some of our members were present as delegates) a New York gentleman, prominent as a philanthropist, familiar with the character of their Prisons, and who had been one of the regular visitors at Sing Sing, declared that their Prisons were like menageries, in which the prisoners were kept and treated as so many wild beasts, and that, a few years back, the severity of the punishments at Sing Sing was such, that the stone at

the foot of the whipping-post was always wet with the blood of the victims of the lash. We trust, however, the discipline is now maintained there by means less severe. The regulations connected with our system, on the contrary, entirely exclude the lash, and, excepting in solitary and very extreme cases, admit of no more severe punishment than imprisonment in a dark cell, with reduction of food; and we are assured that a very few days only, of such discipline, are sufficient to curb and subdue the most refractory—and even this mild punishment has to be applied very rarely.

Influences of the Systems Compared.—There is nothing, as we believe, in the working of our system, which can make the prisoners *worse* than when they enter; but on the contrary there is much, the direct tendency of which is to make them better. We are well aware that *all* are not reformed by it, though we thankfully trust that such is the result with regard to many. Under the discipline of the “Auburn System,” we can hardly see how reform amongst the prisoners can be promoted. And we are convinced that there is a mistake in the confident claim set up, that, as conversation between the prisoners is almost wholly suppressed, they cannot corrupt each other, and consequently, if not made better, they at least cannot be made worse. The very fact that the prisoner, in daily, though silently, meeting in the workshop a large mass of fellow-convicts, is sensible that he is surrounded by, and on the same level with, the off-scouring of the community, degrades him in his own estimation, and silently, perhaps slowly, but almost inevitably, sooner or later, drags him down, till he becomes sorrowfully demoralized. In confirmation of this, it may be mentioned that one of our own members, in the course of a visit a few months since, at the State

Prison at Auburn, was informed by the officer in attendance, that amongst their convicts there were ministers, doctors, and lawyers. Upon this, our member inquired if they there maintained a deportment consistent with their previous position in society. The reply was: "For a short time they do; but they soon sink to the level of the most degraded."

Another point of much consequence, in comparing the "Congregate" and "Separate" systems, is,—that by the former, each of the prisoners becomes familiarly acquainted with the countenances of the others, and consequently, on meeting after leaving the prison, an immediate recognition takes place between them, and on the principle that "Birds of a feather flock together," they are united by a kind of sympathy, which is anything but salutary; while by the latter, never having seen each other during their incarceration, there is no danger of their being drawn into evil association after their discharge.

Reference to Publications.—Our time and space forbid our extending this branch of our subject. Before leaving it, however, we think proper to refer to two or three, amongst the many publications in which interesting and valuable views may be met with on the subject of prisons, particularly such as relate to what we have been endeavoring to set forth as the "Pennsylvania *Separate System*" of prison discipline, and its practical working.

First. Those eminent men and close observers, De Beaumont and De Tocqueville, who visited this country from France, a few years after the opening of our Eastern Penitentiary, for the purpose of examining into the character of our institutions generally, in their work, entitled "*Du Système Pénitentiaire Aux Etats-Unis*"

(the Penitentiary System in the United States), give some very satisfactory views with regard to the working of our Penitentiary, where they spent considerable time, visiting all the prisoners by permission of the authorities, and remaining in their cells in private sufficiently long to obtain from the inmates a knowledge of the practical working of the system upon them. This work, in the original French, and also an English translation of it, by Professor Francis Lieber,—himself eminent as a close observer, and deep thinker on the subject of penal laws and penal institutions, and their systems of discipline,—are to be found in the Society's Library. The translation is accompanied by some very valuable Notes by the translator, and in an Appendix to it there is an Essay, by the same, treating specially on the "Pennsylvania System," republished from the *Encyclopædia Americana*. A small volume, entitled, "Prisons and Prisoners," by Joseph Kingsmill, chaplain of the "Pentonville Prison," near London, conducted very much upon our system, is well worth reading. We would also refer to an elaborate "Essay on Cellular Separation," written by our fellow-member, William Parker Foulke, under appointment by "the American Association for the improvement of Penal and Reformatory Institutions," and read before that Association at the Annual Meeting, held in New York, in the autumn of 1860, as being an able exposition of our system. This Essay was published by our Society soon after its preparation.

Misstatements corrected.—In this connection, it is due to the cause of truth to say that Charles Dickens, the novelist, in his report of his visit to the Eastern Penitentiary, contained in his "American Notes," makes representations so palpably erroneous, as to appear to those familiar with that institution and its government

to be absolutely absurd. But as he uses the form of a direct reference to particular cases, strangers will more readily than they otherwise would adopt his statements as setting forth the truth. It should be remembered, however, that the celebrity to which this author has attained, is as a writer of "fiction," not of truthful narrative or history. In this instance, (possibly without being aware of it), he has maintained the consistency of his literary character. The late William Peter, the worthy consul of Great Britain, residing in this city, soon after the book of Dickens was published, made a personal examination into each of the cases referred to, and in a letter to the late Job R. Tyson, thoroughly refuted the misrepresentations.

Application for County Prison granted.—In 1831, the Legislature provided for the sale of the Walnut Street Prison, and for the erection of a largely increased number of cells in the Eastern Penitentiary, so as to be prepared for the reception of the inmates of the former. The Society being apprehensive that the principle of separation might be interfered with by the sudden introduction of so large a number of prisoners, memorialized the Legislature to have another prison erected on the same principle, for the use of the county. A law was soon after passed, providing for the erection of one for the use of the city and county of Philadelphia, capable of holding at least three hundred prisoners, on the principle of separate confinement.

Bad condition of County Prisons.—The receptions into the Eastern Penitentiary from other parts of the State, afforded constant evidence of the miserable condition of the County Prisons. The prisoners received from them were so injured by the abuses and bad management and arrangements prevailing there, that it was very

difficult to maintain the consistency of the Penitentiary discipline, or to secure its legitimate results in such cases, and it was, therefore, deemed essential that the system of separation for all classes of commitments should be introduced into all the County Prisons, and in 1832 a Committee of the Society was appointed to investigate the condition of these prisons throughout the State.

Matrons.—In 1833, the Society represented to the Prison Inspectors, the propriety of appointing matrons to have charge of the female prisoners.

Public Executions.—In 1834, the views of the Society were met, by the passage of an act requiring all sentences of death to be executed within the walls, or yard of the jail, limiting the number and character of the witnesses allowed to be present, and forbidding the attendance of any person under age.

Care in relation to the New County Prison.—Early in the year 1835, the new County Prison being nearly ready to be occupied, the Society became much interested in the system of discipline to be there adopted; for though the Act itself provided for individual separation, it was feared that the character of the prisoners to be received might lead to a relaxation of this essential principle. They, therefore, appointed a committee to take the matter in charge.

Plans for County Prisons.—Instructions were given to the Acting Committee in 1836, to have plans prepared for the County Jails, on the separate system. And upon their report in 1838, the legislature was memorialized by the Society, to appoint commissioners to investigate the condition of these jails.

Annual County returns of Crime, &c.—In 1839 and 1840, the Acting Committee of the Society was engaged

by calling the attention of the Executive to the subject, and otherwise, in endeavours, by legal enactment, to secure an annual return being made to the Secretary of the commonwealth, with regard to the condition of all the county jails, and the proceedings in the criminal courts; giving full statistics on all points of especial interest, with a view to aiding in adapting legislation to the existing state of things in the prisons, and improving the criminal code, where necessary. Although a law was subsequently enacted, to effect this very desirable object, it has been almost wholly without operation.

Moral and Religious Instruction.—From its first introduction, moral and religious influences, and instruction were considered to be necessary adjuncts to the separate mode of discipline. This subject was consequently referred to a committee of the Society in 1841, and in 1843, the appointment of a special officer as a moral instructor for the Philadelphia County Prison, was reported, his salary being paid by private subscription. Such an officer had been appointed in the Eastern Penitentiary in 1838.

Quarterly Journal.—The Society had, at different times from its rise, expended considerable sums of money in publishing pamphlets, &c., with a view to enlightening the public mind, and thus furthering the benevolent objects for which they had associated, and for the promotion of which they were so constantly and zealously laboring; and, finally in the autumn of 1844, it was deemed expedient to commence the publication of a quarterly journal, as furnishing a means by which they could embody in a more permanent form, the results of their observation, inquiry and experience, and might also embrace other kindred subjects. In pursuance of this conclusion, at the beginning of the next year, the

first number of the "Pennsylvania Journal of Prison Discipline and Philanthropy" was issued, and, (with the exception of one year,) has been continued until the close of last year, (1861,) comprising in all 16 volumes.

"House of Refuge."—In 1845, after observing the successful progress of the House of Refuge for juvenile delinquents for a period of nearly twenty years, the practice of frequently sending boys of an older and more hardened character, to be confined there with the younger and less so, was seen to be an evil which ought to be remedied if practicable. The subject was discussed by the Society from time to time, and the suggestion was made that a prison on the separate plan, somewhat modified from the penitentiary, should be erected for the reception of this older class, but the heavy cost of such an establishment seemed to be an insuperable difficulty in the way at that time.

Abuses in County Prisons.—In the autumn of 1846, one of the officers of the Society, who had personally visited and inspected several of the county jails, made a voluminous report of their condition. His leading representations were, "the entire neglect of wholesome discipline, the intermingling of prisoners of both sexes and all ages, and every grade of crime, from murder to misdemeanor, and the idle and vicious habits in which the prisoners were allowed to live, made it almost a matter of doubt, whether the public would not, in the end, gain by abandoning most of the jails. Cases were mentioned, in which men had escaped and found honest employment, who, if they had staid their time out in jail, would probably, have sunk irreclaimably through the influence of such associations, as they must have encountered there."

Vindication of our System.—In 1847 a volume was published in Boston, under the title of "Prison Disci-

pline in America," which was ably written, and though not *intending* to misrepresent our system, really did so very greatly, from a want of a correct knowledge of the facts. The author being a gentleman of standing, and his work being favorably noticed in two of the principal periodicals published in that city, it was found that the prejudices previously existing against the system we had adopted, were likely to be strengthened and confirmed. To counteract this, and enlighten the public generally in relation to the true character of the "Pennsylvania System," a pamphlet, written by one of our members, was published by our Society in 1849, entitled "*An Inquiry into the Alleged Tendency of the Separation of Convicts, one from the other, to produce disease and derangement,*" by a citizen of Pennsylvania: 160 pp., 8vo. This work had a wide circulation, and we trust has had a salutary influence in removing unfounded prejudices, and correcting erroneous impressions.

Colored Criminals.—In 1849, the Society entered into an investigation of "what was alleged to be a marked difference between the length of sentences passed on colored convicts, compared with those passed on whites, and also the comparative mortality of the two classes." For the interesting results of this investigation, see the first number of volume 5th of our Journal, January, 1850.

House of Correction.—The Visiting Committee of the County Prison became early sensible of the imperative necessity for some plan being adopted by which to remedy the great evil to the prison and its proper inmates, and burthen to the community, resulting from sending there a vast multitude for vagrancy, intoxication, and disorderly conduct, of which classes alone, the number committed in 1850 was 4,557. (The number

of these for 1860 was 16,793.) Many of these had sufficient bodily strength and ability to earn their own living, but their idle and dissolute habits would be continued so long as food and lodging were furnished them, either in the almshouse or jail. "To mitigate, if possible, this evil, and to relieve the community to some extent of the burthen it imposes, the Society adopted a resolution in 1851, to inquire as to the expediency of establishing a House of Correction, or probation, intermediate to the Almshouse and Prison, for the reception and employment of this large class of persons; and such measures were adopted by the parties interested, as led to the passage of an act in 1854, establishing such an house. The appropriation for the object was sufficient for an ample experiment, though the details of the bill might be open to some grave objections." It is much to be regretted that from various considerations operating upon the different parties on whom devolved the duty of executing this law, its provisions were not carried out, and it consequently became inoperative.

Neither the Prison Society nor the public were satisfied with this failure, and the subject being renewedly pressed on the attention of the Legislature, a new act was passed in 1860, under which a Board of Managers have been appointed, and from the character of their preliminary action, there appeared to be ground to hope that this highly important advance in the reformatory movements of our Commonwealth would soon be carried into effect. There is great reason, however, to apprehend that the present disturbance in the country may retard it.

Revision of the Criminal Laws.—In 1857 the Society memorialized the Legislature to appoint a commission to revise and modify the criminal laws of the State; and

in 1858, a committee was appointed to proceed to Harrisburg to promote the passage of the requisite law for the purpose. The efforts of the Society in this behalf proved successful, and resulted in such a revision and modification as must be productive of much good, although the commissioners did not feel authorized by the character of their appointment, to go into all the questions suggested by our Society.

We have now accomplished what we designed in the projected plan of this report, in tracing the history of our Society from its origin down to quite a recent period; yet our sketch, extended as it has been, fails to make anything approaching to a full exhibit of its doings during that time.

It remains for us now to bring into view the principal transactions of the last year or eighteen months, from which we think it will be evident that "The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," is still alive to the interests of humanity connected with its sphere of action, as in its early days, and standing as a "watchman upon the walls," both to detect abuses which may exist, and use efforts for their removal, and to avail itself of every opportunity which may present for furthering the progress of penal reform, not only within our own City and State, but also amongst our neighbors.

Prison at Washington.—In 1860 we were informed that there was a proposition to erect a new prison at Washington City, and our Society immediately took action in relation to the subject, with a view to communicating with the authorities there, and urging upon them the importance of making their arrangements so as to adapt them to introducing the system of cellular separation. Circumstances, however, prevented this commu-

nication from being made, and we believe that no actual steps have yet been taken by them to carry out their proposition, and we have recently had accounts of a most deplorable state of things in their jail. Shocking as the account is, we can only appropriate space to introduce one short quotation, to wit, "In other portions of the building are narrow passages, five feet wide by twenty-five feet long, upon which open three cells. In each of these, only *ten* feet long by *eight* wide, *ten* prisoners sleep, and during the day the whole *thirty* have merely the liberty of moving through the twenty-five feet of crowded and fetid passage-way, without books, papers, work, or any mental distraction beyond the idle words of their companions."

New Prison in New Jersey.—Learning also that a proposition to erect a new Penitentiary in the eastern part of the State of New Jersey, was likely to be brought before their Legislature last winter, our Society adopted a memorial of a character very similar to that of the communication intended to have been forwarded to Washington, and appointed a committee to take charge of it. A part of this committee visited Trenton, and in a very satisfactory interview with the Governor, were assured of his cordial co-operation in promoting our views. The memorial was duly presented to the Legislature. No action, however, has yet been taken in reference to this important matter, and it is feared that the terrible calamity which has overtaken our beloved country will occasion its postponement.

Proposed Change in Mode of Appointing Inspectors.—A movement having taken place in our State Legislature in the session of 1861, to take the appointment of the Inspectors of the Eastern Penitentiary from the Supreme Court, where it had been placed by law; our

Society immediately forwarded a remonstrance against the proposed change. They apprehended that the motive to this was, at least in part, political partisanship, and whether so or not, the result, if successful, would almost inevitably be to drag our noble Penitentiary and its government into the arena of partisan politics, which would be a deplorable calamity. The change was not made.

Law for shortening Sentences.—At a stated meeting of the Acting Committee, held October 18th, 1860, the following preamble and resolutions were introduced, and being unanimously adopted, were referred to a special Committee of five members, to take the subject into consideration, and make report thereon to a future meeting. To wit: "Whereas, the hope of reward is to the human mind one of the strongest incentives to good conduct; and as, in this enlightened age, such incentives are found to be more humanizing than punishment, which partaking of the character of vengeance begets its like, as a natural result, in the mind of its victim; and as under the present humane mode of treatment of another class of sufferers, kindness and consideration are found more effectual as remedial agents than chains and dungeons, which were formerly resorted to. And whereas the opportunity of doing overwork in the prisons of our city has been attended with advantage, by promoting the benefit of the prisoner, and contributing to the good order, as well as to the pecuniary profit of the Institutions, thus giving reasonable ground for believing that further service may be rendered to the cause of humanity, by taking another step in a like direction, it therefore becomes those interested in promoting the improvement of their kind, and in relieving the miseries of public prisons, to consider whether there

be not a mode, by which those convicted of crime may be further encouraged in a course of good conduct, and confirmed in habits of morality and good order. Therefore—Resolved: That a Committee of be appointed to take into consideration, and report, whether some plan may not be suggested, by means of which the terms of sentences might be somewhat shortened, dependent on a continued course of good conduct of the prisoner; thus encouraging them in the practice, and perhaps establishing the habit of subordination and submission to those in authority, and to the laws of the community; and also to consider any other plan likely to produce the same effect, that may occur to them, or be presented for their consideration.”

At a stated meeting of the Acting Committee, held February 21st, 1861, the Committee appointed to take into consideration the foregoing Preamble and Resolution, made an elaborate and able report, signed by four of the members, of which the following is an abstract. They inform, that after first entering on the consideration of the subject, they concluded to ask a conference with the Inspectors of the Eastern Penitentiary, to ascertain their views in relation to the matter. That their application to the Board was referred to the Visiting Inspectors, with whom the desired interview was obtained, and the result was sufficiently encouraging to induce the Committee to give the subject further consideration. They subsequently concluded that it was expedient to adopt the principle of the Preamble and Resolution referred to them, and prepared a schedule of such apportionment of the time proposed to be deducted as appeared to them suitable; and they agreed to propose to the Society that an application should be made to the Legislature for the enactment of a law to carry

the same into effect. This result was arrived at after much reflection on the subject, and inquiring into the results of the practical working of the system in five of the States of the Union, to wit: Massachusetts, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Ohio, where the plan had been several years in operation, and the testimony of the Inspectors and Wardens of the prisons where it prevailed was highly approbatory.

The Committee also, in the course of the consideration of the subject referred to them, applied to Judges Thomson, Allison, and Ludlow, of the Court of Quarter Sessions of this county; Ex-Judge King, largely experienced in criminal jurisprudence; Ex-Judge Lewis, of the Supreme Court, and Wm. B. Mann, District Attorney, asking their opinion in relation to the proposed measure. A written reply was received from each of them, expressing favorable views.

[As it is proposed to publish this Report, with the letters of the Judges and District Attorney, in an Appendix, in full, this synopsis is deemed sufficient for our present purpose.]

The Committee appended to their report the following Resolution:

“Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to apply to the Legislature for the passage of a law, in conformity with the recommendation set forth, with authority to proceed to Harrisburg, to endeavor to procure its enactment.”

They also appended thereto a schedule of the proposed deduction to be made for continued good conduct on the part of prisoners.

The time of the meeting at which the report was received being so occupied with other matters as not to allow of a full discussion of a subject of such importance,

it was concluded to adjourn for one week, for this special purpose.

At the adjourned meeting, held February 28th, it was taken up and freely discussed; but without taking the question on its adoption, it was continued over to the next stated meeting, with an understanding that it should then have precedence of all other business. Accordingly, at this meeting, March 21, 1861, a full expression of the views of the members, in regard to the measure, took place. After which, the question was taken by yeas and nays, and resulted in its adoption by a decided majority. And at the next meeting, one of the members who had voted in the negative, asked and obtained leave to have his name recorded in the affirmative, on the ground that he had voted under a mistake. Thus, the final result was the adoption of this important measure, by more than two votes in the affirmative, against one in the negative. A memorial to the Legislature, asking for the passage of a law to carry out these views of the Society, was immediately adopted, and being duly signed by the President and Secretary, a portion of the Committee attended with it at Harrisburg, to represent the Society in making such explanations as might be called for, and urging its passage. This was accomplished in the Senate, about two weeks before the close of the Session, the bill sent up by the Society having been by each House first referred to the Judiciary Committee for examination and approval. Final action on it, in the House of Representatives, did not take place till near the close of the Session. The Act being passed, was approved by the Governor, and became a law on the first day of May last. It is intended to publish it in the Appendix hereto.

We understand that the Inspectors of our County

Prison are acting under this law, and we trust its salutary influences will soon become apparent. At the Eastern Penitentiary we learn that no direct steps have been taken towards carrying it into effect, unless the fact of their having opened a book, in which cases of prisoners *sentenced since its passage for a term of over ten years*, are entered with a view to applying its provisions to them, may be viewed as such a step. They have declined acting, on several pleas, which we think untenable. One, that the Act is ambiguous and its true meaning not susceptible of interpretation. Another, that such a law is unconstitutional. But we submit whether this latter question should have been raised by them, when the same body of gentlemen about the time this Act was passed, that is, in their Annual Report issued in January 1861, recommended to the Legislature the adoption of the following provisions, embracing precisely the same legal and constitutional principles.

First.—"That in all cases of first conviction for crime, of minors, the term of imprisonment shall be terminated by the Inspectors, with the consent of the president judge of the court in which said minor was sentenced, when in their opinion the punishment has produced its expected results."

Second.—"That in all cases of first conviction for crime, of persons between 21 and 25 years of age, the term of imprisonment shall in like manner be lessened, as a reward for good conduct, by the reduction of three days in every thirty, after the first twelve months of imprisonment."

We, however, think that it would be illy worth our while on this occasion, to enter into an elaborate defence of the law, especially, as it is probable that measures will soon be taken to procure a judicial interpretation of it. We shall, therefore, dismiss the subject after merely putting ourselves right, in relation to some erroneous *ex-parte* statements with regard to our Society, unnecessary

rily introduced into the recently published Special Report, in which the committee of the Inspectors undertake to discuss and condemn the law in question. First. In two or more instances, it is stated that the passage of the Law was procured by "members" of the Society; in one, the assertion is that "some *one or two of the Prison Society's Committee* caused the Act, under examination, to be enacted into a law." The history of the whole business which we have just given, from the first introduction of the measure to the notice of the Acting Committee, till it became a Law of the State, abundantly proves that it was the *Society* which was acting; sometimes, in its associated capacity, and sometimes, through its individual members, who were empowered to act for it. The *Society* appeared at Harrisburg by a *delegation*, not in a *body*. Second. Certain paragraphs or passages are introduced into their Report, which are said to have been extracted from an article entitled, "Considerations respecting some recent legislation in Pennsylvania, originally written for the Journal of Prison Discipline, vol. 16, October 1861." The extracts themselves present an erroneous view of the proceedings of the Society, but, we are willing, for the present, to let them pass. But the implication in the Report, that the Society or its Acting Committee, had cognizance of the article referred to, when offered for publication in their Journal, is calculated to make an erroneous impression. Neither the Society nor the Acting Committee had any responsibility, either for the acceptance of the part published, or for the rejection of the remainder. It never came under their notice, till after it was printed and circulated.

Abuse of Power by Magistrates.—The corrupt and oppressive abuse of power by the Committing Magistrates is a great evil with which our Society has been battling

almost from its origin, but without yet vanquishing it, as the report of the Prison Agent for the last year will abundantly prove. We have a committee under appointment in charge of the subject.

Pardons.—The pardoning power, and the manner in which it is exercised, have also recently again claimed our attention.

Tobacco.—The Inspectors of our County Prison have adopted a rule by which the use of tobacco has been entirely excluded from the prisoners confined there, unless it be in cases strictly medicinal. This rule has been in force for upwards of two and a half years, and the resident Physician, in each of his Annual Reports, has spoken in strong terms of its salutary results. Its use has not yet been prohibited by the Inspectors. In the Eastern Penitentiary, though the quantity allowed to be furnished has been much reduced. Our Society has had under the care of a committee, the consideration of the propriety of memorializing the Inspectors in favor of adopting a similar rule to that in force in the County Prison, but no final conclusion has yet been arrived at, so far as to justify any official action. In the meantime, however, the visitors are encouraged to use moral suasion amongst those using it, to abandon the practice. It is very satisfactory to know that this course has been successful in several instances, and that the individuals have since expressed their conviction of the advantage of this change in their habits.

Discontinuance of the Quarterly Journal.—The publication of the Prison Journal, which was commenced in 1845, as heretofore stated in regular course, was maintained at a heavy charge upon our funds, so that after payment of the other current expenses incident to conducting the Society, such as compensation to the Prison

Agent, room-rent, slates, copy books and other stationery for the use of the prisoners, &c., the balance, to be appropriated to the relief of discharged prisoners, and other practical objects properly having claims on a "Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," was very small, and as appeared to many, insufficient. They doubted its being a legitimate appropriation of so large a portion of the income, and individual members frequently conversed together on the expediency of discontinuing the publication, the annual cost of which was about \$550. In 1858 a resolution to discontinue it was introduced, and earnestly and largely discussed, but on a pledge given by those desirous of continuing the publication, that they would take such steps as would secure an ample addition to our annual income, it was agreed that it should not be suspended at that time. Efforts were made soon after, which resulted in an increase in the annual subscriptions for one or two years, but each year since, a number of our subscribers declined paying, and the calamitous war which has overtaken our country, has occasioned such a reduction of our means, both actual and prospective, as to make it evident that we must either suspend the publication, or suspend the appropriation, which was already much too small, for the relief of discharged prisoners. In this state of our affairs, many of the members could not hesitate a moment which alternative to choose, and therefore a resolution for its discontinuance, and the substitution of a full Annual Report was introduced and entered on the minutes, with notice by the mover that it would be called up for consideration at the meeting to be held three months after its introduction. At the meeting designated, it was accordingly taken up and extensively discussed in the "Acting Committee," and a resolution

referring it to the next stated meeting of the *Society*, with the recommendation that the measure should be there adopted, was passed by a large majority. Accordingly, after being freely discussed by the Society at that, and also an adjourned meeting, it was adopted in a modified form, by which the *Quarterly* publication should be discontinued, and an *Annual Journal* substituted for it, which should contain an Annual Report, and such essays or other matter as might be offered, and be deemed suitable by an Editorial Board, to be elected for the service.

Before leaving the subject of the discontinuance of our *Quarterly Journal*, it is proper to refer to its late editor, our fellow member, Frederick A. Packard, who took charge of it a few years after its commencement, and conducted the publication with marked ability from that time till its close. The Society is indebted to his pen for many valuable articles published in the *Journal*, and separately.

Lunatics.—An evil of no small magnitude, in the consideration of which the Society has been earnestly engaged, is the practice which prevails of committing lunatics to our County Prison, some of whom have been convicted on criminal charges, and others “picked up in the streets, and committed for want of a better home,” as we are assured by the Prison Agent. An application, in which our Society is co-operating, is about to be made to the Legislature, which it is hoped may result in an arrangement being made which may relieve the prison of this class of its inmates.

Prison Agent.—William J. Mullen, who has for several years been under appointment by the Inspectors of the County Prison, and also by our Society as “Prison Agent,” has been as indefatigable in the discharge of his duties during the past year as heretofore. His particu-

lar province is to take cognizance of, and inquire into all cases of alleged oppressive and illegal commitments to the County Prison; and in the course of his investigations he frequently procures conclusive evidence that individuals have been committed on charges which were utterly groundless, or at least frivolous and insufficient. From his interesting Annual Report, embracing the year 1861, just issued, we learn that he investigated 2,700 cases during the year, and with the co-operation of the constituted authorities, succeeded in liberating 1,182 of these from prison. He seems to have devoted his whole life and energies to this service, the duties of which he discharges with great fidelity.

Prison Library.—The Library at the Penitentiary now contains about 2,900 volumes, of which about 680 are in the German and French languages. The selection has been made with a view to furnishing interesting and and instructive reading, adapted to the various capacities and tastes of the prisoners; and it is satisfactory to be able to report that the books are extensively used. The number of volumes loaned during last year was about 20,000. When we remember that the average number in confinement during the year was not over 458, many of whom were very degraded and ignorant, and wholly unable to read when they entered, it becomes in our view, an interesting feature of our system of discipline, not only that the opportunity for mental exercise and enjoyment should be so freely presented, but that these poor creatures should feel the inclination to avail themselves of it so largely, whether it be for mere amusement or for instruction. There is also a smaller Library at the County Prison of a similar character.

Number in the Penitentiary in 1861.—The entire number of prisoners in the Penitentiary during the year

1861, was 646. The largest number at any one time was 485, and the smallest 431. The state of health amongst them was generally good, and the per centage of mortality exceedingly small, there having been only two deaths.

Prison Society's Visitors and Visiting.—We now come to speak of what, under all considerations, is, we believe, the most important part of the action and services of the Society—that which is accomplished through the agency of the Visiting Committees. To give to those who have not been on the appointment a clear view of the manner and extent of the action in this direction, it may be best to mention the preliminary arrangements. At the Annual Meeting of the Society forty-four members are elected, who, with the officers ex-officio, form the “Acting Committee.” After the election, this Committee organizes and subdivides itself into two Visiting Committees, one of them allotted to the County Prison, and the other to the Eastern Penitentiary. These sub-Committees next organize and allot to each of the members a certain division, or portion of a block or corridor, containing only such a number of cells as will admit of his paying frequent visits to each of the inmates. The Committees hold meetings monthly, at which time each member is expected to make a report of the number of visits he has paid to the prison, and the number of interviews he has had with the prisoners, particularly designating such as took place *inside of the prisoner's cell*, which interviews are considered to be much more likely to be serviceable than those at the cell door. When any thing of especial interest occurs, it is expected also to be added to the report. The reports, at least as regards the Penitentiary Committee, are required by the rules to be in writing, and 182 of such reports have been made

by them during the year just past, giving an account of 776 visits to the Penitentiary, and of an aggregate of 8942 interviews with the prisoners—6149 of which were inside of the cells, and 2793 at the cell doors. These interviews are believed to average about fifteen minutes in length, though each case is governed by its own circumstances. With some, very little more than a friendly salutation seems called for, as there is no ground to work upon, with hope of being serviceable; while, with others, a half hour, or in some instances even an hour, may be profitably spent. In performing these visits with the hope of doing good, it is deemed essential to approach the prisoner in a spirit of kindness, and thus convince him that, although the world may have cast him off, and notwithstanding the degraded condition to which his crimes and depredations on society have brought him, there is one at least who cares for his soul, and who feels that, although he has justly forfeited his liberty, he is still a fellow being, and a candidate for Divine Mercy, and therefore entitled to such a measure of the common comforts of life as the law allows him. When the prisoner, by this means, becomes fully assured that the visitor has no sinister purpose in view, but is alone prompted by desires for his good, he becomes willing to hear freely, even if he does not assent to the importance of such counsel as may be addressed to him. Under these circumstances, the visits sometimes become deeply interesting occasions, both to the visitor and the visited. Here, where no human eye sees, and no human ear hears them, the overshadowings of Divine Love are sometimes witnessed to soften that heart which had been so long hardened, that even the criminal himself had believed that it would never again be susceptible of feeling; and the visitor acknowledges that, through the

same influence which softened the heart of the prisoner, he has been enabled to hand forth counsel suited to the case before him. Some of these interviews, are mere kindly, social opportunities, in which no religious instruction is attempted. The prisoners are encouraged to be obedient to the rules of the prison, and respectful in their deportment toward the officers; and in the daily reverent reading of the Holy Scriptures, and committing portions of them to memory. They are also recommended to adopt and maintain habits of cleanliness, both in their persons and cells, which is entirely in their power, as each one has a hydrant at his command.

Those who have had little or no school education, are urged to avail themselves of the opportunity now afforded them, through the aid of the teachers employed by the Institution, to acquire a knowledge which will not only prove a source of enjoyment, but will be of real service to them after leaving the prison walls. The results in some instances are remarkable. Our space, however, will only admit of a short reference to two cases, which are by no means solitary ones. One visitor reports—"No. 4186, when I first visited him, did not know the letters of the alphabet. He said he had tried to learn and could not. I persuaded him to make another attempt, and endeavored to impress upon his mind the necessity of at least learning to read his Bible, that he might learn his duty and regulate his future life. He did make the attempt, and can now read and write very well." No. 4340, a German prisoner, at the time of his entrance into the penitentiary, could not read or write a word in the English language. Fifteen months afterwards he could read in our language with such facility, that he rarely met with words which he could not understand, and much of his English writing was beautiful. The

Visiting Committee of the Penitentiary appoints a sub-Committee to attend to the cases about to be discharged by the expiration of their terms of confinement. It is their duty to see each prisoner before the expiration of his term, to inquire generally into his condition and prospects, give him such counsel as to his future course as seems to them suitable, supply him with such articles of clothing as he requires, sometimes to give small sums of money for their immediate necessities, and to aid them in obtaining employment, or to get to their friends, as the case may call for. Some of the more hopeful among them are encouraged to write to the Committee, informing as to the manner of their getting along, &c. They occasionally receive very satisfactory letters.

The importance of the visitors from our Society, in aiding to carry out the intention of the law, that the prisoners should be frequently seen by proper persons other than the keepers, will be better appreciated when the fact is adverted to, that the law directs that "the Inspectors, in their *weekly visits* to the several places of confinement, *shall speak to each prisoner* confined therein." And with regard to the Warden, the law says, "he shall visit *every cell and apartment*, and see *every prisoner*, under his care, *at least once in every day*."

In speaking on the subject of visiting, and the care extended to discharged prisoners, we have more directly referred to the Penitentiary than the County Prison, for particular reasons. A prominent one is, that the Penitentiary illustrates the "Pennsylvania System," while the County Prison, on account of the crowds sent there for vagrancy, intoxication, disorderly conduct, &c., does so very imperfectly. Another is, that the population of the latter, being of a less permanent and settled character, the same systematic course of visiting cannot be

carried out, and consequently a detailed record of the proceedings there has not reached us. The visitors allotted to that prison have discharged their duty very faithfully, and the members, in the course of the year, have had numerous interviews with those confined there.

"The Association of Women Friends."—The care of visiting the female departments in both prisons has been left with "The Association of Women Friends" (to whom our Prison Society makes an annual appropriation), who have undertaken the service from a conscientious sense of duty, and, we trust, with much benefit to the visited. In the year 1861, they paid 1065 visits to the female prisoners in the Penitentiary and County Prison, of which 499 were at the former, and 566 at the latter. They state in their report that they "are encouraged from time to time, by many little evidences, that their labors are not in vain in the Lord. In a few instances, apparent amendment of life has been the result of His blessing on their feeble efforts."

Death of Richard Williams.—Since our last annual meeting, Richard Williams, who had long been pleasantly associated with us as a member of the Acting Committee, and who had been a faithful, kind-hearted, and useful visitor at the Eastern Penitentiary, has, in the ordering of inscrutable wisdom, been removed from works, as we trust, to the fruition of rewards amongst the blessed.

EDWARD H. BONSTALL,
TOWNSEND SHARPLESS,
CHARLES C. LATHROP,
ALFRED H. LOVE.

PHILADELPHIA, 1st Mo. (Jan.) 23, 1862.

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON THE SUBJECT OF LAW SHORTENING SENTENCES.

The Committee to consider the expediency of applying to the Legislature for a graduated diminution of sentences, dependent upon the continued good conduct of prisoners, having conferred together, and being favorably impressed with the advantages likely to arise from the adoption of the plan, concluded to ask a conference with the Inspectors of the Eastern Penitentiary.

Their application to the Board was referred to the Visiting Inspectors, and an interview was accordingly had with them, at which your Committee received sufficient encouragement to induce them to give the subject further consideration.

At a subsequent meeting of your Committee, it was agreed that a Report should be prepared in favor of an application to the Legislature; and also a schedule of such apportionment of the time proposed to be deducted, as might appear suitable. It was also agreed to prepare a memorial for the consideration of the Acting Committee, addressed to the Legislature, asking for a modification of the law in that particular; and setting forth that several other States have adopted the principle, and that in practice it appears to be cordially approved by those who have administered the several laws under these provisions. Both of which documents are herewith submitted.

The Committee have herein embodied a summary, showing the different States which have enacted a law upon the subject, with their respective gradations, with other information relating thereto: viz., in MASSACHUSETTS, the law says: For less than *three years'* sentence, *one day in each month* may be de-

ducted for good conduct. For sentences, from *three to ten years, two days in each month*; and for *ten years and over, five days*. The *Inspectors now propose* to increase the time, and that for *less than three years, one day in each month*; *three to seven years, two days*; *seven to ten years, four days*; *ten years and over, five days*. They say, as an aid to discipline, it is of great value; affecting some, who are insensible to other motives; and is a strong inducement to good behavior. The Warden fully indorses this, and says, another year's experience confirms it.

MICHIGAN says: For the *first year, one day in each month*; for the *second year, two days*; and after that, *four days in each month*. For a willful violation of the rules, Inspectors have the power to deprive of any or of all the time gained. The Inspectors have recently recommended to the Legislature, that it should be made *four days* in the month, *from the beginning*. The WARDEN commends this as a wise measure. He says the law works *first rate*, and there is but little punishment.

WISCONSIN says: At the end of each month, the Commissioner shall give to each prisoner who has conducted well, a certificate, diminishing his term, *not exceeding five days in each month*. All certificates to remain on file, subject to being annulled for subsequent misconduct. A certificate of good conduct, at the expiration of sentence, *restores to citizenship*. The Warden recommends, that, after good conduct for two years, *ten or fifteen, or even twenty days, for long sentences*, might be deducted from each month.

In IOWA, the law says: For the *first month, one day* shall be diminished for good conduct; at the end of the *second month, two days* additional; *third month, three days*; and for the *fourth month, four days*; and *four days for each subsequent month* of such continued good behavior.

In OHIO, the law of 1856 says: For the *first month, one day* shall be deducted for good conduct; for the *second, two days*; for the *third, three days*; for the *fourth, four days*; and for the remainder of his term, *four days in each month*. After three years' experience, viz., in 1859, the law was further

modified, increasing the number to *five days in each month*. It is, however, provided, that the Directors may diminish the time gained, either in whole or in part, for willful violation of the rules. If their conduct be uniformly good, they shall be entitled, at the expiration of their time, to receive a certificate from the Warden, on presentation of which to the Governor, they shall be restored to all the rights of citizenship.

The Inspectors say: "We cannot too strongly recommend that feature of the 'new law' which offers a premium for good behavior, by deducting a portion of their term of imprisonment." They also say: "Banished as they are from the social enjoyments of life, without some motive, the mind naturally sinks into a stagnant indifference. The diminution of sentence, and the restoration of all rights of citizenship, are powerful incentives to good behavior."

The Warden says: "Among the reforms already introduced (in Ohio), none has evinced the power of controlling the wayward in so striking a manner as that provision of our law allowing a diminution of time for good conduct." He says: "The former officers of this prison bear testimony in their reports to the benefits derived from this law; but I think," he says, "they fail to express even a moiety of what is really its due." He further adds: "If it be a fact, and I presume none will dispute it, that no person can continue to *do right* (whether forced or otherwise), for any considerable length of time, without being to some extent permanently benefited—then whatever is the greatest incentive to good conduct, is in my opinion the best calculated to accomplish the greatest amount of good. That the diminution of time is *this incentive*, none that have watched its operations will feel disposed to dispute; and I know they will not think of denying, that, combined with our *overwork system*, it has done more to preserve order and restrain vicious passion than all other incentives together. Language fails to describe its effects. Its work must be seen to be appreciated.

He further says: "As no special provision was made for United States prisoners, they received none of the benefits of this law; but on application to the Attorney-General, an

opinion was obtained, by which these convicts also receive the same benefit."

Your Committee, in arranging their schedule, have taken into consideration, that a sentence of equal length, under the system of separation, is a greater privation to the prisoner than under other systems; and therefore the scale of abridgment is more liberal, and particularly after the third year, and progressively so, according to the increased length of sentence.

The advantages likely to result from the contemplated improvement, commend themselves so fully to our better feelings, that little need be said by way of illustration; but the expression of some views may perhaps be important. In the preamble to the resolution of our appointment, it is suggested that "*the hope of reward is to the human mind one of the strongest incentives to good conduct;*" and in the relation in which we are considering it, the principle may be applied with its fullest force; from the fact that prisoners are shut out from the ordinary sources of pleasurable influences. Everything, therefore, partaking of the character of a reward is received and dwelt upon by them with considerable interest. This, we think, must be evident to those accustomed to visiting prisoners, in a friendly and familiar manner. Many of them, who for the first time, find themselves within the limits of a cell, of which they are to be the inmates for a series of years, experience a shock, which operates with great force upon their feelings; and whatever may have been their previous condition in life, yet possessing the attributes and aspirations common to our nature, they may be acted upon by like influences.

Separated from the world, and deprived of the enjoyments to which they may have been accustomed, a feeling of despondence often covers the mind; and the absence of the usual sympathies and incentives leads to great discouragement.

Such of us as may have been deprived of our ordinary inducements to exertion, even for a short period, can in some degree feel for those, so completely shut out from such impulses. It is these influences that usually stimulate and control most of our pursuits in life; without them, existence to many would be a burthen.

A long and dreary confinement is before the prisoner, and whether the sentence be for a greater or a less period, to his imagination it seems to be of almost interminable length; and under present circumstances, feeling that no effort on his part can diminish it, the future seems enveloped in a cloud. The prospect, therefore, of even a *brief abridgment of sentence*, would be looked forward to with great delight. It would serve as a kind of morning star in his horizon, the prospect of which would quicken the pulse and encourage to effort—or as an anchor to fall back upon, when clouds of depression overshadow the mind—or when a state of irritation or impatience, arising from nervousness, might, like a storm, overcome his better judgment, and drive him to some act of desperation.

In confirmation of the position, that rewards have a potent influence on the inmates of Penal Institutions, it may be mentioned that one of our Committee, in a recent tour in Europe, visited the Parkhurst Prison (for lads and young men), in the Isle of Wight, when he was informed by the Governor of the prison, that in the year 1849, when there were no special rewards existing, that the number of offences recorded were between five and six thousand. In the following year, 1850, a modified system in that particular having been introduced, the number of offences were reduced 25 per cent., while, in the following year, viz., 1851, a small amount of wages and other privileges being allowed, the offences were reduced to 678; that is, from near 6000 to about one-eighth of that number. The Governor of the Institution added, there had also been an increased cheerfulness and greater obedience to officers. Comment is unnecessary.

Your Committee may here remark, that the range of thought with prisoners is often so limited, and their sources of enjoyment so few, that everything of a pleasant character is dwelt upon with much interest; so much so, that they can often tell the *precise day* they were last visited, and by whom, although weeks or months may have elapsed; but a morbid feeling at times prevails with others. They think that society has done its worst toward them; and under that impression their minds are strongly embittered; and sometimes a determined feeling of

revenge is unhappily induced. But the abiding consciousness that provision has been made by this *same community*, by means of which they may materially shorten their term of imprisonment, will, we think, serve to awaken a feeling of gratitude, and keep before them continually a *door of hope*; which, whether considered in a temporal or in a spiritual point of view, is so essential to the happiness of all human beings.

“ Hope to the heart both strength and comfort give;
But hope without an object cannot live.”

Besides, the *discipline of mind* required for maintaining advantages gained, will silently but steadily be doing its work: and the *habitual* observance of rules of good order, to which many have never been accustomed, may open a new field of thought and of action; and under the divine blessing cause a change of character. In addition to which, the satisfaction derived from a correct course of conduct would be a suitable subject for our Committees to enlarge upon, in their visits; showing, that, by pursuing a similar course on their release from prison, numerous advantages would probably follow.

Little circumstances often change a man's course in life, and sometimes cause a great improvement in conduct; and the simple appliance of enabling them thus to shorten their sentence—giving evidence of a disposition to temper justice with mercy, might produce the desired reformatory effect; and your Committee, in view of the experience gained in other institutions, can hardly doubt of its beneficial results in our own. For who shall say what slight incentive, or what word of kindness or encouragement, may not change the whole man and his future destiny.

But an objection has been started to the measure proposed; and that is, that the worst men are generally well-behaved in prison; and that such would derive more benefit than those disposed to reform. So far as that might be the case, *even their good conduct* would be a good example to the others; *certainly it could do no harm*; and even the worst of men might be benefited by bringing a new influence to bear upon them. But this objection, as we conceive, is not of sufficient force to

prevent the adoption of what is proposed; if it were, our public institutions might perhaps be closed, and even private charities abandoned, because impostors sometimes partake of their advantages. The Inspectors of the Massachusetts prison, as before stated, say that this plan has an effect upon some who are insensible to other motives.

Such things are not unfrequent in ordinary life, and many a wayward youth has been diverted from the downward course by a gentle admonition, or by a casual observation, perhaps not even intended for his ear. And how many of *us* have been preserved from allurements and temptations to evil, by the kind and watchful care of a tender and religious mother; a privilege which many of these unfortunates have never enjoyed. Under like circumstances, can any of us say, that our own lot might not have been like theirs; and indeed may not the happy and salutary influences by which we have been surrounded, have been the means of preserving us from a like unhappy condition? Many persons are impressed with the idea, that a man convicted of crime, and sent to a penitentiary, must necessarily be changed in his entire nature; and that there is no hope of a restoration to usefulness. But it is not all who are sent to prison that are deliberately and determinedly depraved; as some of us know. Many of them have been the dupes of designing men, who have escaped; others have been placed in unfavorable circumstances, and through sudden temptation have fallen; others, from indulgence in strong drink and exposure to evil company; and others, perhaps, from the bad example or neglect of parents.

Their arrest and conviction, have brought many to a sense of their folly; some of whom, no doubt, through humiliation and prayer, have sought for and obtained forgiveness.

Is it not, therefore, wise in us to endeavor to do what we can, and leave the result to Him "who maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good; and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust?" "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand, for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that; or whether they both shall be alike good."

In conclusion, your Committee may state that they have desired to possess themselves of such practical information as might be within their reach, and have taken some pains to do so; all of which has but confirmed their favorable feeling. Much of what has been thus obtained, is the result of the experience of prison officers in other States. But still further to satisfy themselves, one of their number had interviews with two officers of long standing in one of our own prisons, both of whom warmly commended the plan proposed, and desired to see it carried out. If the proposed change be adopted, your Committee are encouraged to believe, not only that the character of the prisoners may be improved, but that, in time, the number of applications for pardon may be materially diminished.

And finally, they are reminded, from high authority, that a persecutor of the righteous, on his way to Damascus, was suddenly converted; and that a touch of the Saviour's garment healed an otherwise incurable disease. While instances are on the same record, of others who, having committed grievous offences, were, on repentance, graciously forgiven, and through faithfulness made instruments for good in the hand of their heavenly Master; so among these unfortunates there may be some who, through the influence of divine grace, may yet prove as brands plucked from the burning.

TOWNSEND SHARPLESS,
CHARLES ELLIS,
CHAS. C. LATHROP,
ISAAC BARTON.

Philadelphia, 2d Mo. 20th, 1861.

LETTERS FROM THE JUDGES IN FAVOR OF THE MEASURE.

PHILADELPHIA, *March 18, 1861.*

DEAR SIR—I rejoice to learn from your letter of to-day, that the Prison Society of our city have under consideration the propriety of petitioning the Legislature for an act enabling those convicted of crime, by a continued course of good con-

duct, to diminish their sentences a few days in each month. The hope of reward, and the fear of punishment, furnish the incentives to good conduct. All systems of religion are founded on these incentives, and they influence all human action. Their application to the imprisoned convict is nothing more than the application of a well-tested principle to a more difficult case to that to which it is ordinarily applied, and I have no doubt that the policy will be productive of beneficial results. There are many cases, I admit, where reformation is entirely hopeless—long experience in the administration of justice forces me to make this admission. But in all cases where there is any hope of reformation, the system proposed must, in my opinion, produce beneficial results. I regret that I am pressed for time so that I cannot say more at present, than to add to what I have already said, the expression of the hope that the proposed policy may be sanctioned by the Society and by the Legislature under judicious regulations to be prescribed by law.

Your's very truly,

ELLIS LEWIS.

PHILADELPHIA, *March 20, 1861.*

DEAR SIR—The proposition to reduce monthly a portion of the sentences of such convicts as conduct themselves with uniform propriety, is one that meets my hearty concurrence; it is equally recommended by the strongest consideration of policy and humanity. It is the very best system of pardons which could be devised, since under it the remission of the sentence of the law against the offender is not the result of unjust favoritism or mistaken sympathy, but the fair reward of a meritorious effort on the part of the convict to amend his conduct. Such a system would be in entire harmony with our penal code, the primary object of which is to reform the offender, and all effort in that direction should be encouraged and rewarded.

Respect'y your ob't. servant,

EDW'D. KING.

PHILADELPHIA, *March 21, 1861.*

DEAR SIR—I am disposed to regard very favorably the proposition to modify the extent of criminal sentences, by allowing the good behaviour of the convict to work a reduction of the time of his imprisonment. We all know that the hope of reward is a great incentive to human conduct, and that it will produce its natural effects even in the cell of a prison. The experience which has been obtained of such a method of re-

ducing sentences in several of the States where it has been practically tested, seems to favor its adoption; and upon general principles it appears to offer a method of meliorating the severity of punishment, without affecting its desired results. I should be pleased if the views expressed by you could be carried out by proper legislation.

Very truly your's,

OSWALD THOMPSON.

PHILADELPHIA, *March 21, 1861.*

DEAR SIR—I wrote to you a short note yesterday, upon the subject of our late interview, and entrusted it to one of the officers of the Court for delivery. I am surprised that it did not reach you. I repeat now, in substance, its contents. The plan suggested, of giving to persons convicted and sentenced for crime, the power of shortening their term of imprisonment, I think an admirable one; and one which, I confess, had not suggested itself to my mind before its presentation by you. One thus confined will feel that something is left to him after the prison doors have closed upon him, for which he may strive. Something he can do by which he will be personally benefited—that *all* is not hopeless; and as an inducement to good behavior, self-control, and the foundation of habits to which, in many instances, he was before a stranger, will not be without its present and future benefit to him. I think the experiment well worthy of a trial. It promises, in my judgment, beneficial results, not only to the prisoner but to society, and if it should not answer the expectations of its friends, it can at any time be abandoned.

J. S. ALLISON.

WEST PHILADELPHIA.

DEAR SIR—Your note of 19th inst. has received attentive consideration, and although I cannot, at this time, give to you my reasons for the conclusions to which I have arrived, yet I can give you these conclusions, as follows, viz.: As a matter of experiment the act might be passed, subject to the following restrictions:

1st. That the time specified shall not exceed *three* days in any one month.

2d. That it shall only apply to cases of first conviction.

3d. That it shall expire by its own limitation, in say two or three years, unless experience demands its re-enactment.

4th. That the act shall in no wise be considered as the beginning of a system which has for its objects the enactment of a series of laws intended in practical operations to discharge

every prisoner when supposed to be, or when he is in fact, reformed.

Your's truly,

March 20, 1861.

JAS. R. LUDLOW.

PHILADELPHIA, March 20, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR—I highly approve of the enacting of a law to enable those convicted of crime to diminish their sentence by a continued course of good conduct. Towards the close of prisoners' terms the authorities are often beset with applications to shorten it, and if the prisoner knew that it was in his power to do it, the authorities would be released from such application, and the prisoner, by adherence to good conduct, would form habits of subordination and virtue that would go far towards protecting him from perpetration of crime when released.

I should be in favor of extending the premium so as to reach one-eighth of the term, starting with two or three days the first month, and increasing as the prisoner improved. The plan is admirable, and in my opinion should be put in immediate practice.

Your's very truly,

WM. B. MANN,
Dist. Att'y.

THE LAW.

An Act relative to Prison Discipline.

SECTION 1.—*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same, That from and after the passage of this Act, it shall be the duty of the wardens and superintendents of the several penitentiaries and prisons of this Commonwealth in which criminals are confined, who have been convicted and sentenced by any court of justice of this State to undergo an imprisonment of more than six months, to keep a book, in which shall be entered the name of each person so confined, and a record of every infraction or violation by him or her of the printed and published rules of such penitentiary or prison, with the punishment (if any) inflicted on account thereof, which said book shall be laid before the inspectors at their regular stated meetings, for examination and approval.*

SECTION 2.—That every prisoner or convict sentenced as aforesaid, who shall have no such infraction or violation of the said rules recorded against him or her during any month of the first year of his or her imprisonment, shall be entitled to a deduction from the term of his or her sentence of one day for the first month, of two additional days for the second month, and of three additional days for the third and each of the remaining months of the said first year of imprisonment, and shall also be entitled for continued good conduct during the second year, to a similar deduction of four days for each month during which he or she shall not have violated the rules aforesaid, and to a deduction of one additional day per month for each succeeding year until the expiration of the tenth year, and to an additional deduction of two days per month during each year of the remainder thereof: *Provided*, That it shall be lawful for the inspectors of said penitentiaries or prisons, if any such convicts or persons shall wilfully infringe or violate any of said rules or regulations, or offend in any other way, to strike off the whole or any part of the deduction which may have been obtained previous to the date of such offence.

SECTION 3.—That the said inspectors shall have full power and authority to discharge the said criminals whenever they shall have served out the term of their sentence, less the number of days to which they are entitled under the provisions of this act.

SECTION 4.—That the said inspectors shall direct the warden or superintendent to give to each prisoner, who may in consequence of good conduct be discharged at an earlier period than he would otherwise have been entitled to, a certificate thereof, stating therein the number of days that have been deducted from his original sentence for good conduct.

Approved the first day of May, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one.

MEMBERS.

Ashhurst, Lewis R.
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 Anderson, V. William
 Atmore, Frederick B.
 Brown, John A.
 Brown, Frederick
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 Brown, Thomas Wistar
 Brown, Abraham C.
 Brown, N. B.

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 Lippincott, Joshua
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 Ludwig, William C.
 Landell, Washington J.
 Laing, Henry M.
 Lesley, Robert
 Lathrop, Charles C.
 Lynch, William
 Luther, R. Morris.
 McCall, Peter
 Meredith, Wm. M.
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 Morris, Isaac P.
 Massey, Robt. V.

Maris, John M.
 Morris, Charles M.
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 Morris, Caspar, M. D.
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 Morris, Elliston P.
 Montgomery, Richard R.
 Mercer, Singleton A.
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 Martin, William
 Martin, Abraham
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 McAllister, William Y.
 MacAdam, William R.
 McAllister, F. H.
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 Morton, Samuel C.
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 Morrell, R. B.
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 Mitcheson, M. J.
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 Needles, William N.
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 Perot, Francis
 Perot, Charles P.
 Perot, T. Morris
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 Patterson, William C.
 Patterson, Morris
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 Perkins, Samuel H.
 Pearsall, Robert
 Pitfield, Benjamin H.
 Pearson, William H.
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 Potts, Joseph
 Parry, Samuel
 Palmer, Charles
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 Rasin, Warner M.
 Read, W. H. J.
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 Rehn, William L.
 Rutter, Clement S.
 Roberts, Algernon S.
 Ridgway, Thomas
 Rice, John
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 Randolph, Philip P.
 Rowland, A. G.
 Richards, George K.
 Smedley, Nathan
 Shippen, William, M. D.
 Scull, David
 Schaffer, William L.
 Scattergood, Joseph
 Shannon, Ellwood
 Sharpless, William P.
 Simons, George W.
 Stokes, Samuel E.
 Shoemaker, Benjamin H.
 Speakman, Thomas H.
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 Smith, William H.
 Saunders, McPherson
 Stokes, Edward D.
 Sloan, Samuel
 Smith, Joseph P.
 Stone, James N.
 Simes, Samuel
 Stuart, George H.
 Stewart, William P.
 Townsend, Edward
 Taylor, Franklin
 Taylor, John D.
 Taylor, George W.
 Trewendt, Theodore
 Tredick, B. T.
 Thomas, John
 Taber, George
 Troubat, Raymond, M. D.
 Thompson, John J.
 Troutman, George M.
 Thornley, Joseph H.
 Thissell, H. N.
 Van Pelt, Peter
 Vaux, George
 Wharton, Thomas F.
 Wood, Horatio C.
 Wood, Richard Jr.
 Welsh, William

Welsh, Samuel
 Welsh, John
 Wetherill, John M.
 Williamson, Passmore
 White, John J.
 Wainright, William
 Wright, Samuel
 Wright, Isaac
 Willets, Jeremiah
 Wiegand, John
 Wilstach, William P.
 Williamson, Peter
 Warner, Redwood F.
 Walton, Coates
 Williams, Jacob T.
 Whildin, Alexander
 Zell, T. Ellwood

LIFE MEMBERS.

On payment of twenty dollars and upwards.

Barclay, James J.
 Bache, Franklin, M. D.
 Bonsall, Edward H.
 Besson, Charles A.
 Cope, Caleb
 Ellis, Charles
 Fottoral, Stephen G.
 Hacker, Jeremiah
 Horton, John
 Hollingsworth, Thomas G.
 Knight, Reeve L.
 Leaming, J. Fisher
 Love, Alfred H.
 Longstreth, William W.
 Marshall, Richard M.
 Ogden, John M.
 Perot, Joseph
 Parrish, Dillwyn
 Powers, Thomas H.
 Potter, Thomas
 Perkins, Samuel H.
 Sharpless, Townsend
 Sharpless, Charles L.
 Sharpless, Samuel J.
 Steedman, Miss Rosa
 Turnpenny, Joseph C.
 Townsend, Samuel
 Whelen, E. S.
 Willits, A. A.
 Weightman, William
 Williams, Henry J.
 Yarnall, Charles
 Yarnall, Benjamin H.

ARTICLE IV.

The Treasurer shall keep the moneys and securities, and pay all orders of the Society or of the Acting Committee, signed by the presiding officer and Secretary; and shall present a statement of the condition of the finances of the Society at each stated meeting thereof.

All bequests, donations and life subscriptions, shall be safely invested; only the income thereof to be applied to the current expenses of the Society.

ARTICLE V.

The Acting Committee shall consist of the officers of the Society, ex-officio, and forty-four other members. They shall visit the prison at least twice a month, inquire into the circumstances of the prisoners, and report such abuses as they shall discover, to the proper officers appointed to remedy them. They shall examine the influence of confinement on the morals of the prisoners. They shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings, which shall be submitted at every stated meeting of the Society; and shall be authorized to fill vacancies occurring in their own body, whether arising from death, or removal from the city; or from inability or neglect to visit the prisons in accordance with their regulations. They shall also have the sole power of electing new members.

ARTICLE VI.

Candidates for membership may be proposed at any meeting of the Society or of the Acting Committee; but no election shall take place within ten days after such nomination. Each member shall pay an annual contribution of two dollars; but the payment of twenty dollars at any one time shall constitute a life membership.

ARTICLE VII.

Honorary members may be elected at such times as the Society may deem expedient.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Society shall hold stated meetings on the *fourth* fifth-day (Thursday) in the months called January, April, July and October, of whom seven shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX.

No alterations of the Constitution shall be made, unless the same shall have been proposed at a stated meeting of the Society held not less than a month previous to the adoption of such alterations. All questions shall be decided where there is a division, by a majority of votes; in those where the Society is equally divided, the presiding officer shall have the casting vote.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT,—JAMES J. BARCLAY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS, { TOWNSEND SHARPLESS,
DR. WILLIAM SHIPPEN.

TREASURER,—EDWARD H. BONSALE.

SECRETARIES, { JOHN J. LYTLE,
EDWARD TOWNSEND.

COUNSELLORS, { HENRY J. WILLIAMS,
SAMUEL H. PERKINS.

Members of the Acting Committee.

Charles Ellis,	George Taber,	Abram Martin,
W. S. Perot,	William J. Kiderlen,	R. B. Morrell,
Thomas Latimer,	Mahlon H. Dickinson,	John Adolph Beaux,
John M. Wetherill,	William Ingram,	Dr. Wm. Armstrong,
Samuel Caley,	James Peters,	F. B. Atmore,
Abram C. Brown,	Robert E. Evans,	Wm Nicholson,
Benjamin H. Pittfield,	Albert H. Francisus,	Charles W. Funk,
Isaac Barton,	William R. MacAdam,	Philip P. Randolph,
James E. Kaighn,	Charles Palmer,	Joseph R. Chandler,
Alfred H. Love,	Charles P. Perot,	Samuel Townsend,
Jeremiah Willits,	Charles C. Lathrop,	A. G. Roland,
William H. Burr,	Thomas A. Robinson,	Coulson Heiskell,
Jacob T. Bunting,	Samuel Emlen,	Benj. H. Shoemaker,
John C. Farr,	William Dorsey,	C. L. Newman.

Visiting Committee on the Eastern Penitentiary.

Townsend Sharpless.	William H. Burr,	Samuel Emlen,
Edward H. Bonsall,	George Taber,	William Dorsey,
John J. Lytle,	William L. J. Kiderlen,	Robert B. Morrell,
Edward Townsend,	Mahlon H. Dickinson,	Frederick B. Atmore,
Samuel Caley,	James Peters,	William Nicholson,
Abram C. Brown,	Robert E. Evans,	Charles W. Funk,
Isaac Barton,	Albert H. Francisus,	Samuel Townsend,
James E. Kaighn,	William R. MacAdam,	Albert G. Roland,
Alfred H. Love,	Charles Palmer,	Benj. H. Shoemaker.
Jeremiah Willits,		

Visiting Committee on County Prison.

William Shippen, M.D.,	John C. Farr,	John Adolph Beaux,
Charles Ellis,	William Ingram,	Wm. Armstrong, M.D.,
William S. Perot,	Charles P. Perot,	Philip P. Randolph,
Thomas Latimer,	Charles C. Lathrop,	Joseph R. Chandler,
John M. Wetherill,	Thomas A. Robinson,	Coulson Heiskell,
Benj. H. Pittfield,	Abram Martin,	C. L. Newman.
Jacob T. Bunting,		

WM. J. MULLEN is agent of the County Prison, appointed by the Inspectors, and acting under their direction, and also appointed by the Prison Society.

NEW SERIES.]

[NO. 2.]

THE JOURNAL
OF
PRISON DISCIPLINE
AND
PHILANTHROPY.

PUBLISHED ANNUALLY
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR
ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS,"
INSTITUTED 1787.

JANUARY, 1863.

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1863.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.

When we consider that the obligations of benevolence which are founded on the precepts and examples of the Author of Christianity, are not cancelled by the follies or crimes of our fellow-creatures; and when we reflect upon the miseries which penury, hunger, cold, unnecessary severity, unwholesome apartments, and guilt, (the usual attendants of prisons,) involve with them, it becomes us to extend our compassion to that part of mankind, who are the subjects of those miseries. By the aid of humanity, their undue and illegal sufferings may be prevented; the links which should bind the whole family of mankind together, under all circumstances, be preserved unbroken; and such degrees and modes of punishment may be discovered and suggested, as may, instead of continuing habits of vice, become the means of restoring our fellow-creatures to virtue and happiness. From a conviction of the truth and obligation of these principles, the subscribers have associated themselves under the title of "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS."

For effecting these purposes, they have adopted the following CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, two Counsellors, and an Acting Committee; all of whom shall be chosen at the stated meeting to be held in the first month (January) of each year, and shall continue in office until their successors are elected; but in case an election from any cause shall not be then held, it shall be the duty of the President to call a special meeting of the Society within thirty days, for the purpose of holding such election, of which at least three days' notice shall be given.

ARTICLE II.

The President shall preside in all meetings, and subscribe all public acts of the Society. He may call special meetings whenever he may deem it expedient; and shall do so when requested in writing by five members. In his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents may act in his place.

ARTICLE III.

The Secretaries shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the Society, and shall conduct its correspondence.

NEW SERIES.

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PRISON DISCIPLINE

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PUBLISHED ANNUALLY.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR
ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS,"
INSTITUTED 1787.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

In accordance with the present arrangement which requires that an Annual Report should be prepared of the proceedings of "The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," the "Acting Committee" now proceed to exhibit to the Seventy-Seventh Annual Meeting, such matters of interest as have resulted from the action of the Society, or have come under its notice during the year just past.

Law Shortening Sentences.—At the proceedings of the Society in procuring the passage of a Law shortening the sentences of prisoners for good conduct, occupied considerable space in connection with the last Report, which announced that the provisions of this Law had not then been carried out in the Eastern State Penitentiary, it seems proper that we should again advert to the subject, that those who feel an interest in it may understand its present position. As the authorities to whom the execution of the Law was delegated, declined acting under it, for reasons which they deemed sufficient, the Society, upon consultation with their counsel, concluded that the most amicable mode of proceeding for the purpose of testing its constitutionality, and the obligation resting upon these authorities to extend to the prisoners the proffered boon, would be by *Habeas Corpus*, they therefore had the cases of two prisoners believed by them to be entitled to their discharge under the Law, brought before the Judges of the Supreme Court. The decision

was adverse, and the prisoners were remanded to serve out the entire term of their sentences. The ground taken by the Judges in their decision, was so broad as to make it very difficult to frame a modification of the Law which would not contravene the objections raised, and yet retain what were deemed to be some of its most valuable features. Under all the circumstances, it has been thought best to let the matter rest for the present. It is hoped, however, that by the joint action of the Prison Society, and the Inspectors of the Penitentiary, we may yet procure a Bill to be enacted into a Law, which shall be so framed as to enable us, in some measure at least, to effect our desired object. We should have freely acquiesced in some verbal amendments to the Law, but much regret that all of its provisions should thus have been rendered *inoperative*, as we feel assured that the *principle* contended for is founded in justice, and that its practical effect on the prisoners would be salutary as a part of the Prison Discipline,—not only by way of prompting to obedience to the established rules, and to habitual good conduct while in confinement, but also in aiding to promote their actual and permanent reformation, by practically showing them, that as it is evidently to their interest to conduct well while there, it must doubtless be equally so when they are at large in the community; and the habit thus acquired of looking to this motive, and practising this restraint on their heretofore comparatively unbridled propensities, must be of great service to them, on again going abroad into the world. If this is the practical effect of the Law, it is plain, that it is not only a boon to the prisoner, but that the community is equally interested in its operation, as fewer of the prisoners will resume their depredations on society after their discharge. Besides, is it not the part of wisdom

at least, if not of duty, in framing laws for the temporal government of society, to follow the example of the Divine Law-giver? We do not find his code to be a system of punishment only, but also largely one of reward. If we have there placed before us a fear of punishment for breaking the Divine Law, we have also exhibited to our view, in most attractive form, the hope and assurance of reward, if we do that which is right.

Employment for the Prisoners.—Owing to the derangement of the business affairs of the country, resulting from the existing Rebellion, it seemed probable for a time, that many of those confined in the Eastern State Penitentiary would be very much without work. The subject of suitable and constant employment for the prisoners has therefore claimed our attention during the past year, as one of considerable importance. We have had under appointment, a Committee, whose special duty it was to attend to this matter, and to devising means by which healthful exercise might be secured, especially for the benefit of such as might not have sufficient work to occupy their time. We view labor, in connection with the prisoners, in a two-fold light. The possession of it is a positive good, not only as a comfort and companion in their solitary hours, but also as a reformatory agent. And the want of it is not only a negative, but a positive evil, especially with those of a low order of education and intelligence, who, being unable to read, and possessing very little matter for reflection, have no resource with which to occupy and interest the mind, and consequently there is danger that by constantly preying upon itself, it may become diseased. Besides, as idleness has been said to be the parent of crime, it would be no small matter, if by furnishing employment, we could do nothing more than establish habits of industry, which

probably very few of those confined in prisons had ever practised in their previous lives. While at large, plotting or practising mischief and crime, labor has appeared to them repulsive, and never having enjoyed its rewards, they have shrunk from it,—but when their evil career has been thus suddenly brought to a close, and social intercourse of every kind with their fellowmen is very much restricted, and that with their former associates is wholly cut off, labor is soon sought after, and is found to be such an alleviation to their present condition, that they cherish it as a blessing. And when to this is added the “hope of reward” which it is most truly said “sweetens labor,” which the credit for “over work,” granted to the prisoners in our Penitentiary, presents to them, a powerful additional motive to application is brought into action with most salutary results. One of the prisoners in the Penitentiary recently informed a member of our Committee, that he had earned in one month \$17, by over work, after performing his allotted task,—that is to say, \$8 50 for himself, and the same amount for the Penitentiary, for the use of the County from which he came, and he added, with an appearance of much interest, that he expected at the end of the three years he had yet to serve, to take out with him between three and four hundred dollars. Many of them are thus soon brought to see and feel that labor instead of being repulsive, as it had formerly appeared to them, greatly alleviates the necessary discomforts of their present condition, and also that it is a reliable resource for the maintenance of those who apply themselves to it. Many also, who on entering had no knowledge of any kind of trade, on leaving, take with them, not only habits of industry, but also a pretty thorough acquaintance with some one or more of the mechanic arts, such as shoe-

making, cane-seating of chairs, weaving, &c. They are thus qualified, upon again going forth into the world, to take a reputable position in society, and secure a livelihood without resuming their depredations on the community. Estimating the value of labor for the prisoners as we do, it is gratifying to us to know that they have recently been pretty fully supplied with it. It is the intention and direction of the Law, that it shall be thus supplied; and we believe, as will be seen by our foregoing remarks, that it is a valuable adjunct in the Pennsylvania or Separate System of Prison Discipline. In the early period of the introduction of this system, some men, of undoubted talent and philanthropy, strongly advocated separate confinement, *without labor*, as being the true system, and this plan was actually introduced and practically tested at the Western Penitentiary of this State, established at Pittsburg; but it was soon found to be wrong, and to have an injurious effect, both upon the mental and physical health of the prisoners. It was also tried in the State Penitentiary at Auburn, New York, in 1822, under accompanying circumstances however of great cruelty, and of unfairness so far as it was intended as a test of the effect of the Separate System on the mental and bodily condition of those subjected to it.

William Crawford, who visited this country in 1833 and 1834, under appointment by the British Government, to inspect the several penitentiaries in the United States, with a view to applying at home, any parts of the systems on which they were governed, which might appear desirable, in the report of his labors and inquiries, which he published after his return, makes the following statement: "In America, the opponents of this (the Separate) System, have produced very erroneous im-

pressions by the publication of certain experiments made a few years since, of solitude without labor; statements which have also been widely circulated in England, to the great prejudice of solitary imprisonment of every description. Having carefully inspected the prisons in question, I feel bound to state my conviction, that the fatal effects which have been described, were not the result of solitude, but of the contracted dimensions and unhealthy condition of the cells in which the experiments were conducted. A trial of solitary confinement day and night, without labor, was made at Auburn in the year 1822 for ten months, upon eighty of the most hardened convicts. They were each confined in a cell only seven feet long, three feet and a half wide, and seven feet high.* They were on no account permitted to leave the cell during that long period, on any occasion, not even for the purposes of nature. They had no means of obtaining any change of air, nor opportunities of taking exercise. The most disastrous consequences were the natural result. Several persons became insane, health was impaired and life endangered. The discipline of the prison at that period was one of unmixed severity. There was no moral nor religious instruction of any kind communicated within its walls, nor any consolation administered by which the convict was enabled to bear up against the cruelty of this treatment. Nor was a trial of the same description, which took place in the State of Maine, conducted under more advantageous circumstances. The night rooms or cells at this prison are literally pits, entered from the top by a lad-

* Less than one-sixth the size of the cells in the corridors which were then completed in our penitentiary, as described by the same writer, to wit: eleven feet nine inches long, seven feet six inches wide, and sixteen feet high to the top of the arched ceiling.

der, through an aperture about two feet square. The opening is secured by an iron grate used as a trap-door; the only other orifice is one at the bottom, about an inch and a half in diameter, for the admission of warm air from underneath. The cells are eight feet nine inches long, four feet six inches wide, and nine feet eight inches high. The gloom is indescribable. The diet during confinement was bread and water only. Thus immured, and without any occupation, it will excite no surprise to learn that a man who had been sentenced to pass seventy days in one of these miserable pits, hung himself after four days' imprisonment. Another condemned to sixty days, also committed suicide on the twenty-fourth day." Our author goes on to speak of similar experiments having been made in Virginia, where the cells were in fact mere dungeons, being in the basement, and so dark as to require a lamp in visiting them. They were not warmed at any season of the year, and a prisoner's feet were actually frozen during the confinement. In damp weather the water stood in drops on the walls, &c. He then adds: "From experiments of this character no just conclusions can therefore be derived, unfriendly to solitary imprisonment of any kind, especially when accompanied by employment, in large and well-ventilated cells, the arrangements of which have reference to the preservation of the health, regular employment, and the improvement of the mind of the offender."

We are aware that the disastrous results of the treatment of the prisoners, as set forth in these extracts, was not wholly owing to their being deprived of labor, but it is evident from the manner in which the subject is treated by the author, that the evil was greatly aggravated by this circumstance. We here see, however,

what monstrous cruelty has been practised in the name of the "Separate System," and these deplorable but inevitable results were immediately seized by its opponents and spread abroad through the length and breadth of the land, both in Europe and America, as conclusive evidence, that these evil consequences were necessarily inherent in, and a part of the system itself. The consequence was, that many philanthropic and well meaning persons beyond the limits of Pennsylvania, became prejudiced against it to that degree, that there was no opening in their minds to hear the truth, and on merely *naming* the system to them they would almost turn from you in disgust. This prejudice is largely operative to the present time, and the much to be regretted result has been that this system, truly humane as it is, when properly carried out (of which the Eastern State Penitentiary of Pennsylvania may be taken as a practical illustration), and superior, as we believe, to all others, has not made one tithe the progress in the world which we feel assured it would have done if its true character had been understood.

The "Separate" and the "Silent" Systems compared.—

It may be thought that we have dwelt long enough on this branch of the subject; but as its discussion has in some measure brought into view our particular prison system, that of the entire separation of the prisoners from each other, day and night, during the whole term of their confinement, and by inference, if not directly, contrasted it with the "Auburn" or "Silent" System, where they are separated only at night and at their meals, but at other times are congregated in their workshops, &c., under a peremptory rule of silence. We avail ourselves of the opportunity to introduce two or three short paragraphs from high authority, with a view to

assisting those who may read this report beyond the limits of our Society, in arriving at a correct understanding of the important question at issue.

William Crawford, from whom we have already quoted, a commissioner of the British Government, and a man distinguished for his humanity and intelligence, who during more than twenty years had devoted his time to visiting the prisons and penitentiaries in the United States and England, in a report on the systems just referred to, made to the British Parliament, places them in contrast in the following manner, to wit: "In judging of the comparative merits of the two systems it will be seen, that the discipline of Auburn is of a physical, that of Philadelphia of a moral character; the whip inflicts immediate pain, but solitude inspires permanent terror. The former degrades while it humiliates, the latter subdues but it does not debase. At Auburn the convict is uniformly treated with harshness, at Philadelphia with civility; the one contributes to harden, the other to soften the affections. Auburn stimulates vindictive feelings, Philadelphia induces habitual submission. The Auburn prisoner when liberated, conscious that he is known to past associates, and that the public eye has gazed upon him, sees an accuser in every man he meets. The Philadelphia convict quits his cell secure from recognition, and exempt from reproach." He also says, "It is a curious fact, that some of the strongest testimonies in favor of individual separation, may be collected from those who are the best acquainted with the operation of the Silent System. We can assert with confidence, that there is not one of the best conducted prisons, in which the Silent System is effectually enforced, that we have not repeatedly visited and closely inspected; and we can truly state, that with one ex-

ception only, the governors of those prisons have acknowledged, that had they to decide upon the merits of the respective plans, they would unquestionably give their unqualified preference to the Separate System."

The enlightened and excellent Count Gasparin, in a letter to George Sumner of Boston, then in Paris, in commending the system (with the practical operation of which in France he was perfectly familiar), says, "Every government which in the actual state of society, and of the progress of social science, adopts any other than the Separate System, will expose itself to the necessity of having, before long, to reconstruct its prisons."

Insanity.—In a short paragraph in our last Annual Report, we think that we fully met and refuted the charge frequently made by the opponents of the system, that its discipline is liable to produce insanity, and relieved the humane feelings of those who were under a sincere, but mistaken apprehension of this result, by referring to the close and systematic observation which had for many years been directed to this point, in the Eastern State Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, which established the fact, that instead of the mental health of the prisoners having been injured, it had in the aggregate been decidedly improved during their confinement. We propose now, in support of this position, to introduce the testimony of two acute observers of the operation of the same system in France. First, the distinguished Physician, *Dr. Lelut*, known in America as well as in Europe, by his important work on *Insanity*, &c., in speaking of the results of an examination of the prisons on the Separate System, which he had made by direction of the French Government, states that there were then in France twenty-three such prisons, and that he had examined about half of them,—and goes on to say, "In

all these houses, I have confirmed *de visu*, what was previously declared by theory, that the Separate System, independent of all the facilities which it offers, for elementary and professional instruction, for the moral and religious education of the prisoners, for religious exercises—independent of the circumstance that it alone prevents prisoners from associating with each other, and from corrupting each other—*that it causes infinitely fewer cases of death and insanity than any other system of imprisonment.* The actual condition of our cellular houses, their history, which covers already a period of three, four, and five years, the testimony of their directors, of their physicians, of their visitors, do no leave any doubt upon this important point.”

The Prefect of the Department, in enclosing to the Government the Reports of the Chaplain, Physician and Directors of the Prison of Tours in France, writes thus : “These Reports establish in the most complete manner, that in regard to the sanitary condition, and the moral education of the prisoners, the system of total separation, so violently and so unjustly attacked, produces the most remarkable results. Of a total number of 1,626 persons who have entered the prison since its inauguration, 16 only have been transferred to the hospital, and one only has died,—and this single case of death was an old man of seventy, who was laboring under a chronic affection of the lungs. If we seek for the influence which it exercises on the intellectual faculties of the prisoners, we must recognize, that far from disturbing their reason, it produces on their minds the most salutary results. In proof of this, I may mention, that not a single case of insanity has occurred in the prison, and that many who have been condemned for a term which require their removal to the *Maisons Centrales*, solicit as a real favor, the permission to complete their imprisonment in their cell.”

M. Moreau Christophe, Inspector of French Prisons, *Dr. Jukius*, who visited the Penitentiaries of the United States as a Commissioner from the Prussian Government, and *M. Ducpetiaux*, Inspector General of the Prisons of Belgium, with many other eminent foreigners, who had facilities for closely observing the working and results of the Separate System, and of comparing it with the "Silent" and other Systems of imprisonment existing in different places, have in their various Reports given very interesting and instructive views, confirmatory of the superior value of the system adopted by us, but we must pass them by, and proceed with our Report.

Tobacco.—The subject of the use of Tobacco in the Penitentiary has again claimed our attention and care during the year now coming to a close, as it did during the one which immediately preceded it. It will no doubt be acknowledged by most, that the practice of using it is of no real value to those who indulge in it, unless it be in the character of medicine, in a very few cases, and consequently, if there was no moral or physical evil resulting from it, its use should be discouraged on the score of economy, and with a view to lessening the number of the wants of individuals, and therefore, making it more easy to satisfy them. But when, in addition to this, its use is very often attended by serious physical and moral evils, such as impairing the bodily health, and exciting a craving for the use of intoxicating drink, it seems especially desirable that those who are clear on entering the Penitentiary, shall not there be permitted to contract the habit, and that an effort should be used to break the habit with those who have brought it with them, and in fact, that it should be made a part of the Prison Discipline, in teaching them

habits of economy for their own future good, during the period in which the law makes them subject to the control of the prison authorities. Our care of the subject, which has heretofore been in the way of moral suasion, with the prisoners, and those who had the control of them, and which has been exercised verbally, as suitable opportunities offered, has finally resulted in the adoption of a Resolution, respectfully asking the Inspectors wholly to prohibit its use in the Penitentiary, (as the Inspectors of our County Prison have done there, with highly satisfactory results,) unless it be in cases strictly medicinal. The quantity at present used in the Penitentiary is much reduced, but this is done, as we understand, as a matter of economy in conducting the Institution, as the cost of the article has latterly been much enhanced.

Pardons.—The very important subject of Pardons, and the manner in which the power is exercised, (not only in our own Commonwealth, but in most places where it exists,) has at different times occupied our attention, though not specially within the past year, with desires that some result might be reached by which the acknowledged evils of the pardoning system might be at least in part remedied. It is a power which should exist somewhere, and be exercised sometimes ; but the good of society, and even of the parties on whom it is to operate, requires that it should only be applied to exceptional and rare cases, and with great caution. We have not yet succeeded in maturing any plan which it is believed would be likely to remedy, or materially lessen, the existing difficulties.

Abuses by Committing Magistrates.—We have again had under the care of a Committee, the abuse of power by the Aldermen or Committing Magistrates. This is

an evil of great magnitude, and has claimed the attention of the Society almost from its origin, but without yet making much advance towards its suppression; nor do we hope to effect it, till their mode of compensation is changed from fees to a stated salary from the Public Treasury. As we shall have occasion to refer to this matter again as we advance in our Report, this short notice may suffice here.

Better Accommodations needed by the Society.—The books and papers of our Prison Society are accumulating to such an extent, as to make it difficult, with the accommodations we possess, to take proper care of them. Many of them are so valuable as to make their preservation almost an object of public interest. An ample and secure fireproof would be very desirable, and also much more extensive book cases than we now have. Our funds, however, are so limited at present, as to be barely sufficient to meet our current annual outlay, such as the appropriation towards the support of the "Prison Agency," that to the Prison "Association of Women Friends," and for the aid of discharged prisoners, and the amount required to meet our Room Rent, the publication of our Journal, and various necessary incidental expenses. We therefore have nothing to spare towards procuring a suitable building or room of our own, which we think would be very desirable. We would therefore commend the Society and its various interests to the kindly notice of our many benevolent citizens who are blessed with ample means, as being deserving of their consideration and attention, both when making their current distribution from time to time of surplus income, and when through the medium of a will, they are making a final appropriation of their estates.

The Prison Agent.—William J. Mullen, the Prison

Agent, acting under appointment and authority of the Inspectors of the County Prison, and also on behalf of our Prison Society, has continued his services in investigating cases of alleged oppressive and illegal commitments to the County Prison, with unabated zeal and singleness of purpose. He has, with the co-operation of the proper authorities, succeeded in liberating during the year 1,223 of these from prison. Amongst them were many very interesting cases, where the common rights of individuals would have been successfully outraged, if they had not been inquired into and relieved by the action of the agent. And it should be remembered that the wrong and suffering in these cases is by no means limited to the individuals who are incarcerated, but that it often extends most cruelly to others connected with the prisoners. What must be the situation of the poor wife and helpless children, when the husband, the father, and provider for their urgent necessities, is thus wrongfully torn from them? Some are arrested and committed under mistake, but much of the wrong-doing in relation to such commitments, arises from the cupidity of the Police-aldermen, or committing magistrates, who many times, on the most frivolous charges, and sometimes without sufficient evidence against them, commit individuals to the prison from motives of gain. In some instances they are content with the fees established by law, but there is ground to believe that extortion is not unfrequently attempted to be practised, and sometimes with success. The mode of compensating the aldermen, by fees to be derived from the individual cases in which they act, gives them an interest in thus oppressing the helpless, and has long been a crying evil. Under this system, and in actual practice, there is good reason to fear, that much of the

income of many of them is not merely "the gain of oppression," but that of extortion also. There are no doubt upright and honorable men among them, but until all fees for such cases are taken away, and a fixed salary substituted, we need not expect to find them as a class to be governed, in their official acts, by high-minded and disinterested motives.

We propose here giving a synopsis of a few of the cases contained in the monthly reports received from the agent during the year, of individuals liberated through his investigations and attentions.

One was that of a venerable old gentleman, for many years President of the Board of Commissioners of the Northern Liberties of Philadelphia, who had retired from business, being worth a handsome independence. He was in the habit of spending much of his time at the office of a relative of his, a merchant on the wharf. The clerk of the merchant on returning from bank, where he had been to make a deposit, found three five dollar United States notes, which he handed to the merchant, who advertised for the owner to come forward and identify the money, and it would be given up. The merchant authorized his relative, the prisoner, to act for him during his absence, and if anybody properly identified the money, to take it from his desk and return it. Among the claimants was an ignorant woman, who said that she and her husband had lost \$50 between Frankford and South Street; and they did not come up any further in the city than Second Street; that the money they lost was in one, two, and three dollar notes. The prisoner informed her that neither the money she had lost, nor the place where she had lost it, agreed with that which had been found, and therefore she could not have it. She immediately went to an alderman and

swore that the prisoner said he had her lost money, but would not give it to her. Upon this statement, accompanied by an affidavit from her husband (who had not heard the prisoner say anything on the subject), a warrant was issued, and he was arrested. On the hearing, the prisoner denied ever having said what had been testified against him, and informed the alderman that he had never seen the lost money, nor even either of the five dollar notes which had been found. Upon a commitment being made out, he asked the constable to go with him to get bail, which he refused to do. He also informed the alderman that he was abundantly able to go his own bail, which, however, he refused to take. The agent, seeing him in the prison, procured bail to be entered, and soon had him released.

A second was that of a woman who was committed for larceny, being charged with having stolen a box of jewelry of but little value. Upon investigation of her case, the agent ascertained that her prosecutor had previously robbed her of some bed ticking, and had brought this charge against her to defeat the ends of justice. She was arrested and imprisoned at the very time when she was required to be at Court to testify in reference to her stolen property. Careful examination enabled the agent to prove in Court that instead of the prisoner having committed a larceny, the prosecutor had entered her house during her absence, ripped open a pillow, and after placing the jewelry in it, sewed it up with a peculiar kind of thread, such as the agent found in the prosecutor's house. In confirmation of this, when the officer, in company with the prosecutor, was searching the prisoner's house for the jewelry, and could not find it, the prosecutor pointed out the very pillow which contained it, and asked to have that searched.

A third case was that of an innocent woman who had been convicted and sentenced to three months on a charge of "false pretence." The charge consisted in her having applied to a member of the St. Andrew's Society, of which her husband had been a contributing member, for money to pay the funeral expenses of her deceased child, which had been buried the day before. A police officer, who was near at the time, arrested, and caused her to be committed, saying that she was an impostor, and he did not believe her story about the child. When her case came up for trial, the agent supplied her with competent counsel who explained the case and defended her. She was, however, convicted on the testimony of this officer, although she herself addressed the Court, and protested against the testimony, explaining her case in a simple, earnest, and truthful manner. Judge Ludlow, seeing her great distress, humanely sympathized with her, and directed an officer of the Court to accompany her to her home to ascertain the facts, see the sexton of the ground where she said the child was buried, &c., promising to release her yet, although convicted, if her story proved true, but if false, to increase her sentence. The officer, after going a short distance with her, took her back to the Court, and reported that she was unable to direct him to a single person who had known her to have buried a child.

The judge then sentenced her for three months to the County Prison.

After this, the agent investigated the case, and found that every word she had said to the Court was literally true, as to the death, and the time and place of burial, &c. The physician was seen, who at the time of its death had given the certificate; the sexton who had buried it was also seen, and the clergyman who had au-

thorized the burial, and paid the charges of the undertaker, with the understanding that she was to pay him again, he having perfect confidence in her promise to do so. When the agent had given to the Court satisfactory proof of these facts, Judge Ludlow reconsidered her sentence and discharged her from prison. Thus, through the services of the agent, this poor but respectable woman was saved not only from the pains and privations of a three months' imprisonment, but also from the odium of being an impostor and a convict, which would probably have been attached to her character during the remainder of her life.

We shall introduce one other case, for the purpose of illustrating the value of this agency, beyond the mere liberating of persons from prison, which is that of a "peacemaker" between the prosecutor and the person whom he had procured to be committed, which is a frequent result of the settlement of cases.

This was that of a German soldier who borrowed money from two different persons for the purpose of getting a commission as captain in the army, and promised to pay them as soon as his commission was obtained. He failed, however, to procure one, and having expended the money, he was unable to repay them. They therefore had him committed to prison on the charge of "false pretence." The man had a wife and seven children in New York depending upon him for support. He had an abundance of recommendations of good character. The agent saw his prosecutors, and succeeded in getting them to go to the prison and talk with him. They soon became very much interested in him, gave him some money, went to the District Attorney and asked for his discharge, and paid all the Court charges and expenses, becoming satisfied, upon reflection, that nothing wrong

was intended by the prisoner. They invited him to their houses, and proffered him their friendship for the future.

Many other cases are almost equally entitled to a place in this Report, as strikingly illustrating the value of the agency to the cause of humanity, and also to the community, in the large annual saving of expense to the County, resulting from the discharges effected by it, before the cases reach the Court. The cost of maintenance and of prosecution, thus saved in the year 1861, amounted to upwards of \$11,000. Its value is fully appreciated by the public authorities, as the following paragraph from the Presentment of the Grand Jury for the June Term, 1862, will testify. In speaking of their visit to the County Prison, they say: "During a part of their visit through the prison they had the company of the prison agent, William J. Mullen, and were glad to find that he still continues in the discharge of his arduous duties, thereby saving great expense to the County, as well as affording protection to the rights of the poorer classes of society."

Lunatics.—We last year referred to the practice which prevailed of committing lunatics to the County Prison, to the great disadvantage of that institution, and stated that this Society was co-operating in an application then about being made to the Legislature, which, it was hoped, would result in relieving the prison of this class of its inmates. The contemplated application was made, and a Committee attended at Harrisburg to make such explanations as might secure the favorable notice and action of the Legislature, but without success. Subsequently, however, the prison agent, after considerable effort, succeeded in inducing the Board of Guardians of the Poor to rescind instructions which had been issued

to the officers of the almshouse, prohibiting the admission of persons sent from the County Prison, so far as to give their President power to admit (under certain restrictions) such persons as he might deem proper, on application of the Inspectors of the County Prison, to that effect.

Under this arrangement, thirty-one insane persons, some of whom had been imprisoned for years, have been sent from the prison to the Insane Department of the Almshouse within the past year.

House of Correction.—The establishment of a House of Correction, (an institution intermediate to the almshouse, and prison,) was referred to last year, as an object of much interest to the community, and a hope was expressed that this highly important advance in the reformatory movements of our Commonwealth, might, under the Act of March, 1860, be soon carried into effect. It is cause for regret, however, that no substantial advance has yet been made. The delay in purchasing the ground, and erecting the necessary buildings, is understood to be occasioned by the City Councils having failed to make an appropriation of the requisite funds. The measure is so important, that we earnestly hope that the different parties having the control of it, may, by hearty and united action, be enabled to bring this long desired establishment into early and successful operation.

Prison Society's Visitors and Visiting.—We propose now to refer to the subject of visiting the prisons and the prisoners, the duties of which we feel to be of constant obligation, and if faithfully discharged, under right qualification, we believe to be of importance, second to nothing else, which devolves upon the Society. As heretofore, the Acting Committee, (consisting of the officers of the Society, *ex officio*, and forty-four other

members, has been divided into two sub-committees: one of them being allotted as visitors to the Eastern Penitentiary, and the other to the County Prison. These Committees have been regularly organized, and each of them has held Stated Monthly Meetings, at which Reports have been received from the individual members, as to the character of their services during the month, and these Reports, or a summary of them, have been transmitted to the Monthly Meetings of the Acting Committee. From the accounts thus received, there is reason to believe that the interest in this service has in no degree abated, and that the duties of the visitors are discharged with increased efficiency. Owing to the long continued indisposition of one or two of the members of the Penitentiary Committee, and the protracted absence from the city of others, the aggregate number of visits paid there is not quite equal to that reported last year. There have been, however, 175 written Reports received from members of this Committee, by which we are informed that 656 visits were paid by them to that institution during the course of the year, in which 7,031 interviews were had with the prisoners, 4,728 of which took place within the cells, and 2,303 at the cell doors. We have no doubt but that many other visits were paid, but omitted to be reported.

The manner of meeting the prisoners is in a kindly spirit, approaching them not as convicts, but as men, the consequence of which is, that the entrance of a member of the Committee into a cell proves, with rare exceptions, a source of real satisfaction to the inmates; confidence being by this means established, an avenue is opened to their better feelings, and on being inquired of, they freely give a history of their past lives, and state what were the immediate influences under which the crime

was committed, which resulted in their being confined in a felon's cell. The information thus obtained, has fully convinced us, that a very large proportion of the vice existing, and of the crimes committed, if traced to their root, will be found to spring from Intemperance.

It must be remembered that this baneful influence is not limited to those individuals who commit crimes while under the immediate effect of the intoxicating draught, nor even to such, and those who by their ruinous habits, have brought themselves into such a state of destitution and degradation, that their necessities present strong temptations, and at the same time their sense of the obligations of integrity and the rights of their fellow-men, is so weakened, that the fatal step is easily taken. But to these two classes must be added the children of such, who, growing up under the influence of the evil example of the parent, feeling the degradation which he has brought upon his family, and suffering from the destitution which he has entailed upon them, and at the same time, being without the benefit of any sound moral and religious instruction, and permitted to roam the streets in idleness, without the knowledge of any business, are easy victims to the attacks of the tempter. When will the proper authorities of the land, by the enactment of suitable and effective laws, lay the axe to the root of this giant evil?

In these interviews with the prisoners, such counsel is given, as seems suited to their condition, so far as the visitors feel themselves qualified, not unfrequently, as we trust, seeking for Divine aid in the performance of the service. We believe that *many*, during their confinement, are improved in their *moral* perceptions, and reach the conviction that "honesty is the best policy," and are thus brought to resolve to endeavor to lead a correct

life from the time of their discharge, and we hope that not a few of these, with the Divine blessing on their efforts, have not again relapsed into their former course of vice and crime, and that some, even amongst those who may not have yet attained to the true ground of reformation, an abhorrence of themselves in the sight of God, may, through Divine mercy, before the close of life, experience that change of heart which will render them acceptable in His sight. And we feel assured, that we have witnessed some instances of *true conversion*, which have resulted through the co-operation of Divine grace, with the instrumentalities connected with our prison system, and we cannot doubt but that the labors of our Prison Society have had some agency in effecting this happy change.

One peculiarly interesting case of this kind has recently occurred, which is thought to be of sufficient value to justify special reference to it. This was a young man, No. 4,160, aged 17, sentenced January 6, 1860, for two years and six months. He had been a very bad boy, and had been imprisoned before, (but not under our System,) without being benefited. After being in the Penitentiary several months, he was favored with a sense of the "exceeding sinfulness of sin," and of his need of a Saviour, and by yielding to the monitions of Divine grace, he in due time, as we trust, experienced an entire change of heart, and attained to a state of acceptance in the Divine sight. Several months before the termination of his sentence, he was attacked with consumption, which soon gave evidence that he was not long for this world. During the remainder of his term, his disease steadily progressed and he often suffered much, but he was entirely reconciled to his condition, and felt comparatively happy, esteeming it as a great

mercy that he had been placed there, where as he said he had found his Saviour. He only hoped that he might not die till he was discharged, and reached the arms of his pious mother at a distance from this city, for her comfort and his own. On the 6th of July last, at the termination of his sentence, he was discharged. This occurred on the first day of the week. A member of our Committee took him from the Penitentiary to his own house, and kept him there until he could be suitably forwarded to his mother. This member in referring to him remarks, "One evening, after our family reading [of the Scriptures], I went up with him to his chamber and knelt with him at his bedside in prayer, when we each offered up a petition to the Throne of Grace. I was about leaving the room when he said, 'Don't go yet, stay and have a good talk.' I did so, when we had a full and free interchange of thought. I questioned him as to what he was resting his hopes of pardon on, and found that it was on the only sure foundation,—Christ Jesus and his atoning sacrifice." He reached his mother, and was with her nearly a month when he died on the 8th of August last. The following is an extract from a letter written by her to the member referred to, a few days after his decease: "I know you and Mrs. ——— will sympathize with a sorrow-stricken mother. My darling child is no more. He sweetly fell asleep in Jesus, at 4 o'clock on Friday, August 8th, after three days' great suffering, which he bore without one murmur. His answers to all were surprising, his conversation humble and childlike. His confidence in his Saviour never wavered; patient, gentle, and loving to all, but to his poor mother he was all love. How hard I feel it to say, Thy will be done! His consoling words to me were, 'My dear mother, don't weep but look up.' In the valley he

felt his Saviour's presence." Soon after, she addressed to the same another letter, from which the following is an extract: "I did not know how dear I loved him until we were called on to part. His patience under such suffering was surely the work of grace, so gentle, so meek. For a week he seemed to be getting somewhat better, and a ray of hope shot up, he would be spared for some time at least. But four days before his death, * * * his agony was great, but not one word of complaint escaped his lips. His whole conversation was his Saviour's wonderful love. His anxiety for the children's conversion, especially his brother Thomas, was great, and his prayer that God would make him the instrument in converting one soul was lovely to me, nor have I one doubt but that [his] prayers will be answered. * * * * *

For the whole day before he died, he kept on saying, 'Dearest mother, look up but don't weep.' At 4 o'clock he called for his brothers and sisters to bid them farewell, which he did, shook hands and kissed each one with a prayer, that his Saviour would grant them grace so to live, as they would meet him in heaven,—but to Thomas he said, 'Kneel beside me, dear brother.' Thomas did so, and then James said, 'Dearest Thomas, will you promise your dying brother to seek the Lord, to give him your whole heart?' Thomas said he would try; then he lifted his dying eyes to heaven and said distinctly, 'O Saviour, grant him grace to keep this solemn promise.' He seemed in great pain. I asked him how the Saviour appeared to him in the dark valley. Aloud and clear he said, 'Dearest mother, Jesus is precious.' These were his last words. He became insensible, and continued in a sort of stupor until a few minutes before 4 o'clock, when I whispered in his ear, 'Do you know your mother, my son?' He turned such a lovely look of recognition,

moved his lips for me to kiss him, I did so, one gentle sigh, and all was over."

In the introduction to this branch of the Report, we speak of visiting the *prisons* and the *prisoners*. The Law incorporating our Prison Society, and that conferring on the Acting Committee the character of Official Visitors, contemplate that in addition to the salutary influence we may endeavor to exert upon the prisoners, by social intercourse with them, and impressing upon them moral and religious instruction, we should also observe the workings of our Prison System, bring anything which appears to be wrong to the notice of the proper authorities, that it may be remedied, and suggest any reforms or improvements in the System which may appear to be desirable. Under this view of our duties and privileges, our Committee, besides observing the general condition of the Institution, as to good order, cleanliness, healthfulness, &c., make special inquiries as to the supply of labor furnished the prisoners, whether the ignorant and illiterate among them receive proper attention from the teacher, how they are progressing in their learning, and if those who can read are freely supplied with books from the prison library, and have copies of the Sacred Scriptures placed in their cells. All these inquiries have resulted satisfactorily, excepting that the teaching force is not sufficient to give such frequent lessons to those requiring them, as would be desirable. The progress which many of them make is very gratifying, and indeed surprising. The instances are frequent, where prisoners who entered wholly without school-learning, that is to say, without any knowledge of letters or figures, in a very few months, are able to read, write, and cipher, with considerable facility, and a very gratifying circumstance connected with this is, that most of them highly value the knowledge they are thus acquiring.

The library is now in a very good condition, having been overhauled during the year and a new catalogue prepared, after withdrawing several hundred mutilated and imperfect volumes from the collection. It now contains about 2,600 volumes, all complete and in a good state of preservation, about 2,060 in the English, and 540 in the German and French languages. While the library was regularly open, 11,526 books were loaned, and in addition, considerable reading matter was furnished during the several months in which they were engaged in examining and re-arranging the books, of which no regular record was kept.

The various officers of the Penitentiary, by their general kindness and good temper in their care of and intercourse with the prisoners, evidence their fitness for their position, and as "like begets like," similar deportment is reciprocated by the prisoners towards them. This is one of the excellent features of our System, which rarely, if ever, calls for the exercise of harshness by the keepers, and, consequently, instead of vindictive or bitter feelings being excited towards them, on the part of those under their control, a mutual feeling of sympathy is frequently brought into action. This was recently very pleasantly exemplified in the presence of a member of our Committee. A keeper, who had charge of about thirty prisoners in one of the corridors, received intelligence of the death of a son in the army, and having obtained leave of absence for a few days that he might go to Virginia to bring home the remains, before leaving, called at the cell of each of those under his care and bade them farewell. Both the words and deportment of the prisoners evidenced that they sympathized with their caretaker in his bereavement. It is also a general practice with the keepers in the evening, as they pass

from cell to cell to hand in a light and lock the doors, to exchange a parting salutation with the inmates. We think it must be self-evident, that such a condition of things is much more favorable as a school of reform than that where the harshness of discipline prevails, which is said to be inseparable from the *Silent System*. The former is like the mellow soil moistened by the gentle shower, which receiving the seed kindly, when deposited by the hand of the husbandman, it soon germinates, and in due season brings forth fruit, which abundantly rewards him for all his toil. Whilst the latter is like the arid, indurated clay, upon which equally good seed may have been scattered, but being dry and impenetrable, it either never springs up, or at best it has a stunted growth, and its yield never compensates for the labor bestowed upon it. The entire number of prisoners in the Penitentiary during the year 1862 was 586. The largest number at any one time was 451, on the first day of the year, and the smallest 353. The number in confinement there on the first day of this year (1863) was 369, to wit: white males 297, white females 18, black or colored males 51, and black females 3. There were 6 deaths and 18 pardons in the course of the year.

The Committee on the County Prison have attended faithfully to their duty as visitors during the year, but the reports from them are not so minute as those from the Committee on the Penitentiary, and, consequently, we are unable to analyze them so as to set forth the particulars of their services. One of the members so thoroughly devotes his time to the duty, as to visit the prison more than 500 times during the year, generally twice a day for more than 250 days. The other members report having among them paid 419 visits in the course of the year.

Under the care of the present judicious and efficient Board of Inspectors, the prison has been satisfactorily conducted; but the population is so unsettled (being largely composed of vagrants, the untried, and those committed for petty offences), that it cannot be considered to fairly illustrate the "Separate System," and therefore we think it proper to make more especial and extended reference to the Penitentiary than to it.

The Prison "Association of Women Friends" (which is recognized by us as an auxiliary in the good work), have continued to be diligent visitors to the females confined in both prisons, and have entered on the service under a full sense of its serious importance, and with desires that their labors might be promotive of the temporal and eternal good of the visited. In the course of the year they paid 987 visits to the prisoners in the two institutions.

In addition to the moral and religious instruction communicated to those confined in each of the institutions, through the medium of our visitors and those of the association just referred to, the Eastern Penitentiary has, as one of its regular officers, a "Moral Instructor," whose time is devoted to visiting the prisoners individually in their cells, and there instructing them in those things which most nearly concern their temporal and eternal interests. The present incumbent of the office is John Ruth, a worthy minister of the Methodist persuasion, who appears to be well fitted for the discharge of the duties of his station. Ministers of different denominations also frequently visit the Penitentiary, both for the purpose of having religious opportunities with individual prisoners, and for the more general and public discharge of the duties of their calling. In the County Prison, although there is no regular officer employed for

the purpose as in the Penitentiary, yet the institution is pretty well supplied with volunteer religious instructors from different sources, and, on the first day of the week, the prison agent generally procures the attendance there of one or more ministers.

In our Report last year, we informed that the Quarterly Journal, which had been published by the Society for a number of years, was discontinued, and an Annual Report and Journal substituted for it. The principal reason then assigned for the change was, the large absorption of our funds which its publication occasioned, while our means for aiding discharged prisoners and sustaining other objects of practical benevolence in carrying out the original object of our organization, that of "Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," were entirely too limited. The result, we think, has already confirmed the propriety of the course then adopted. Our financial condition has considerably improved, and our appropriations in 1862, in aid of discharged prisoners, were upwards of fifty per cent. greater than in 1861.

EDWARD H. BONSALE,
JOSEPH R. CHANDLER,
TOWNSEND SHARPLESS,
CHARLES C. LATHROP,
ALFRED H. LOVE.

} Committee on
Annual Report, &c.

PHILADELPHIA, 1st Mo. (Jan.) 15, 1863.

MAGISTRACY.

The Magistrate must have his reverence, the laws their authority.—BURKE.

Moses, in reply to the question of his father-in-law, "Why sittest thou thyself alone and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?" said, "Because the people, when they have a matter, come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God and his laws." In him we have a model magistrate. But finding the labor "too heavy" for him, by the advice of Jethro, he confined his duties in this respect to those of an appellant judge, to be for the people "Godward," to "bring the causes unto God," and to hear "every great matter," and he did "provide out of all the people, *able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness*, and placed such over them to be rulers," or minor magistrates, "and made them heads over the people," "and they judged the people at all seasons; the hard cases they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves." In this record of the first institution of the office of the magistrate, and the qualifications considered as requisite in the man to fill the position, we have a lesson that it becomes us diligently to consider at the present day. If there has been degeneracy of the world since the days of Moses, in no respect perhaps has it been more forcibly felt, than in the mode of administering justice, (or as it would be more properly termed *injustice*,) at the present day, by the police or committing magistrates. The evils resulting to the community, the cruelty done to the unfortunate being who falls into their hands, by the system prevailing and carried out by many of the magistrates, especially of this city, have become so aggravated as to demand a thorough reformation. "Moses chose *able men*," whose qualifications were known "out of all Israel." Men who

acted in the "fear of God," and "who hated covetousness;" or would not take "*fees*" or levy severe contributions on their victims, or the victims of others' wrongs, or commit them to prison on false or trivial charges, to exact the payment of "charges and costs." He did not leave the *election* of the magistrate to any body of the people whom they were to judge, much less to the worst or dissolute portion of them.

The very word "magistrate," (from *magister*, master,) implying control, direction, suggests to the mind the idea of equity, safety, and purity. It excites reverence and a sense of exalted dignity, and imposes such a power and responsibility as never should be exercised by a bad or incompetent man.

In countries where the magistrate is *appointed* by the head or ruling power for his qualifications, and is *independent* of the people over whom he presides, this feeling or sentiment, as a general thing, has been justified. The people living under the administration of such, lay themselves down and sleep in peace, and arise and go to their avocations, feeling that their rights, their property, and their lives are secure, because the righteous magistrate dwells in the land!

Under our democratic ideas, that because "the people are sovereign," we must therefore permit them, in carrying out these ideas, to exercise the power of electing all of our officials from the highest to the lowest, we run a great risk of placing the liberty and the welfare of the citizen, in the hands of bad and immoral men. However capable the people may be *as a whole* to judge of the qualifications and fitness of any certain person for a magistrate, *if they would as a whole exercise their sovereignty*, no one, we presume, will claim that the portion of the "sovereigns" who congregate in "grog-shops," and act under the inspiration of intoxicating beverages, in procuring nominations, are properly exercising the sovereign power, or that "the voice of *the people*," thus expressed, is "the voice of God." That *some* good magistrates, as we truly have, are elected under the present system, but illustrates the truth *that it is possible* to elect

the right kind of men to office, if the better class of citizens will but exercise the privilege of the franchise, which under our theory of government it is the *bounden duty* of every good man to do.

The evils arising from the magistracy, as at present administered, are the results of two causes, which ought to be removed :

1st. The mode of selecting or making magistrates.

2d. The mode of compensating them.

From the nature and duties of their office, they should be removed as far as possible from any dependence upon the favour, the votes, or the fees of the people over whom they judge or rule.

Being a part of the ruling power, having delegated to them the "mastery" over the people, they should receive their authority or appointment from, and be dependent upon, the supreme authority or head magistrate, or "Master" of the City or State, and his constituted advisers, the council or senate, and removable only for cause. Being thus appointed by him who represents the sovereignty of the people, and by his position and responsibility to the people for his acts, we might reasonably expect to find men appointed, capable of discharging the duties, and worthy of the sacred trust of a magistrate. Again, as to the second point, the magistrate should not in any way be dependent upon, profited by, or have any portion of the "*fees*" of his office, but should be appointed for a certain precinct, ward, or district, and receive a certain *fixed* compensation or salary from the public treasury. All "*fees*" or charges, being the penalty for breaking or infringing the laws, should be collected and paid over to the public treasurer by the magistrate, leaving him free to act uninfluenced by them, as the impartial agent of the law, as between the ruling power or sovereignty of the people and the accused, and enable him to act as a peacemaker, or reconciler of difficulties. Under the influence of the "*fees*" to be derived from "committing" the person accused, is there not danger that self-interest may sometimes induce the magistrate to commit unnecessarily, or otherwise encourage bad

feelings between the accuser and the accused, when a more independent position might lead the magistrate to secure a reconciliation and settlement of the difficulty?

All persons thus appointed and acting, should have power to act not only as committing magistrates of persons after examination, to be tried by a higher court or magistrate for heinous offences, but they should be authorized and required to try all trivial or minor cases, summarily, and to decide upon the same, and pronounce sentence accordingly, without appeal except in specified cases. A system similar to this prevails in other cities, or did at least in New Orleans before the rebellion, where Recorders or criminal magistrates acted or presided over certain defined districts; justices of the peace acting in civil cases only, one being entirely separated from the other, and the same person not allowed to act in both positions. The system was found to work to advantage there, though the incumbents of the position, contrary to what we deem wise, were elected by the people. As adjuncts to such a system, a Work-house for mature offenders and vagrants, and a House of Industry (or Refuge) for juvenile ones, to which the magistrate could sentence them, would be needed to relieve our County Prison of the *surfeit* of cases now sent there, and to relieve the public, by the fruits of their labor, from their cost of maintenance; and so situated as to lead as far as possible to their reformation, and to the formation of habits of industry, regularity, and temperance. Such institutions could, as elsewhere, be made to pay a profit to the city, instead of as now maintaining the victims of the magistrate at heavy cost, in idleness and amidst evil associations. The workings of the present system prevailing in our city, are forcibly presented by the Reports of the Inspectors of the County Prison, and those of the prison agent of the same,* from the latter of which we select only the following, which are but a sample daily occurring:

1. One of these cases is that of a young soldier committed [May 15th], on the charge of homicide. The Agent went to Washington,

* William J. Mullen.

visited the camps, and saw that witnesses therefrom were brought here. These were brought here under the charge of an officer, specially detailed by the Court for the purpose, to prove an alibi in his behalf. It was not, however, found necessary to present this evidence, as another witness was found who testified to seeing the murder committed by a different person. The prisoner, in consequence, was at once acquitted.

2. Another case was that of a United States marine, the victim of a conspiracy, whose object was to have him arrested and imprisoned as a deserter, in order to recover \$30, which are usually allowed in such cases by Government. The chief actors here—as it appeared—were a sergeant and two tavern-keepers, who sued him before two different aldermen for an indebtedness, amounting to \$17 for board and for money obtained—as they say—under false pretence, which consisted in his promising to pay after receiving his wages from Government. At the settlement the sergeant claimed \$135 out of \$140.80; exacting one-fourth of the sum loaned for its use, and leaving but \$5.80 for the prisoner to cancel the \$17 debt. This \$135 was paid to the sergeant for the use of \$101.25 advanced to the prisoner within 19 days subsequent to his being paid—all of which he had spent. A ten days' furlough was granted to him, and then he was imprisoned, as above mentioned.

In investigating the case, the Agent learned from the prosecutors, that they intended to get paid by keeping him in prison till after his furlough expired, and then getting the major to arrest him, as a deserter, with a promise that he would see them paid out of money, which the prisoner would eventually have to pay, after being put in irons and confined, for three months, in the barracks—which is said to be the customary punishment in such cases.

3. Another case was that of a United States Army captain, who was imprisoned on the charge of *enticing* soldiers out of a regiment in one State into a regiment of another State. It appears that, from patriotic motives, he had resigned the command of his company in Virginia and went to New York to raise a regiment of which he was to be major. While he was in Philadelphia the orderly-sergeant of his former company sent him a letter, inquiring how he progressed in forming his new regiment, and also informing him that, after pay-day, many of his old command would quit their company.

This portion of the letter came to the knowledge of one of our city Aldermen, who construed it, as enticing soldiers from one company into another, and thereupon unjustly committed the captain to prison.

On the Agent stating the truth of the case to the alderman, and asking the prisoner's immediate release, as his services were needed in our country's defence; the magistrate refused to discharge him, unless he or his friends would pay the costs, and thus submit to the illegal extortion of money, as also to the imputation of having violated the laws. Whereupon the Agent, after consulting the United States Court officers, applied to the Court of Quarter Sessions for a writ of habeas corpus, had the case examined, and the prisoner was discharged by the authority of Judge Thompson.

4. Another extraordinary case was that of a woman charged with kidnapping and robbery. The alleged kidnapping—as was proved in Court—consisted in her taking possession of her own son, of 16 years old, a runaway, found by her in Schuylkill County, and the robbery in the taking of his clothes, which she had a right to take, as was shown by her acquittal in Court, at her hearing upon a writ of habeas corpus, procured by the Agent; when the fact of his being her son was established, not only by herself, his mother, but by his brother, of 19 years old, and by a respectable citizen and others, who had known him from infancy.

5. Another case, presenting; perhaps, still more striking features, was that of a woman committed, on a bail-piece issued by one of our city aldermen, November 20th, and discharged November 21st, by bail being entered for her appearance at Court. The original charge against her was for assault and battery on a neighbor woman.

According to the prisoner's account, she got into difficulty with this neighbor about some children belonging to another party. They struck each other, and then the prisoner was sued by the other woman before an alderman, who granted a warrant gratis, as at the time she had no money. The prisoner was required to give bail, or go to prison. She then arranged with the alderman's constable (at his suggestion) to pay him \$2 for being her bail, on her receiving money, which she expected daily from her husband and son, who were in the United States Army. She also agreed to pay the alderman \$1.80. On her receiving, soon after, a remittance from her son, she promptly paid the amount agreed upon.

She was then told, by the alderman and constable, that she must now enter freehold bail for her appearance at Court. She replied, that she thought that unnecessary, as she and her prosecutrix had settled their quarrel, and were now as friendly and intimate as sisters, visiting each other in their respective premises almost every hour in the day. But, notwithstanding all this, and although, being a simple case of assault and battery, it was fully within the magistrate's power to settle it, he would not do it, but insisted on having freehold security.

She then consulted a distinguished lawyer on the case, who addressed a note to the alderman, requesting him to dismiss it. He would not comply with the request, but persisted in exacting freehold bail.

The alderman's constable then proposed getting his brother-in-law for her bail, on condition that she would pay him \$5 for the service. Becoming frightened, as she had three small children, with no one but herself to care for them, her husband and son being in the army, she assented to his terms and paid him the money—which (be it noted) was in addition to the \$3.80 previously paid to the alderman and constable.

She was then allowed to depart for a few days, at the end of which the constable visited her, early one morning, and told her the bail was about to give her up unless she would pay some more money. She gave him all she had, a half-dollar, which she at the time actu-

ally needed to get food for her children. He took it, but said it was not enough, and he must, therefore, have her husband's coat, which was hanging within view. She gave him this, and he then further insisted on having some breakfast, which she also gave him.

He left, but not long after returned, and declared she must go to prison, as her bail would incur no further risk unless he received more money. She replied that she had no more money to give; but, instead of this, she gave him her husband's pantaloons and drawers, which he took, and thereupon insisted on having her husband's razor and shaving apparatus, which she gave him. He concluded his call by demanding his dinner, which she also gave him, and he went away.

A few days subsequently, his brother-in-law (the bail) called, and told her he was going to surrender her to be sent to prison, unless she either gave him more money, or complied with certain infamous proposals of his. The latter she promptly refused, with the remark that she would not dishonor her husband and son, who were then enrolled for the defence of their country.

He then left, and went to the alderman and had her sent to prison, cruelly separating her from her sucking infant, who was left at home with her other two young children, and no one else.

The Agent, on learning these atrocious facts, at once saw that the prisoner was released on bail, and permitted to return home to her family:

6. Another case was that of a woman, the mother of a large family of little children, who was committed by one of our aldermen on the vague charge of misdemeanor. Her husband is a soldier in the United States Army. It seems that her landlord wished to remove her from the house she tenanted in a summary manner, and he appears to have formed a conspiracy with the prosecutor for this object. She refused to leave till she got a remittance from her husband. A quarrel ensued, and the prosecutor struck and beat her most shamefully. A proof of this was that her person, when she entered the prison, was black and blue with bruises. After the prosecutor had done this, he went to the alderman and sued her on the charge above named. This he did to secure himself from being prosecuted by her for assault and battery.

Let the community arise! Let our City Councils and our State Legislature act, and perfect such legislation as will remedy this crying evil, and rid our beautiful city, so distinguished for progress in arts, science, and benevolent institutions, of this polluted sore.

C. C. L.

IMPRISONMENT.

So far as we are acquainted with the actual condition of the various countries of the civilized world, we are compelled to the painful and humiliating conviction, that there are individuals amongst their inhabitants who are prone to, and actually will interfere with, and depredate upon the rights of others, unless they are subjected to moral or physical restraint. This fact has made it necessary that measures should be adopted to protect the general mass of society against the wrong-doing of these evil-disposed persons. It must be evident to all, that in originating and maturing these measures, or in framing and perfecting laws for this purpose, an intimate acquaintance with human nature, and a high order of wisdom, are essential pre-requisites to fit those upon whom the duty should devolve, to enter upon the highly important work. The instinct of self-protection would naturally, and even properly suggest, that the first object should be to secure the community against a repetition of the wrong-doing, by placing the individual who has committed a serious offence under such physical restraint as to make it impossible for him for a time to continue his evil course. This object may be secured by a close confinement of the culprit in a prison or penitentiary. But if we rest satisfied with having accomplished this, we are taking a very narrow view of a very broad subject. This same instinct, if its promptings are intelligently pursued, will convince us that the punitive character of this restraint or imprisonment should be such as to operate upon the fears of the evil-disposed who are at large, and thus deter them from yielding to temptations which may prompt them to commit offences against society or individuals. And, also, as this imprisonment cannot be permanent, the individual incarcerated should, through this source, as well as others, be made to feel that "the way of the transgressor is

hard;" and from this experience (in the absence of any higher motive) be induced to so conduct himself, after his liberation, as not to render himself liable to be subjected to a repetition of these "pains and penalties." At the same time, however, that the imprisonment and discipline provided, should embrace such elements as would subject the convict to a full sense of punishment, they should be carefully guarded from partaking of the character of vindictiveness or revenge. If this care is not exercised, the higher and more enlarged action of Christian philanthropy and duty, which should immediately follow that referred to as being prompted by the instinct of self-protection, which is, the temporal and eternal good of the offender, by his reformation, will be entirely defeated.

We are aware that in some countries, in framing their penal laws and discipline, the only object appears to be to prevent the continued perpetration of offences by the imprisonment of those convicted as offenders, and by the severity of their punishment to deter them from a repetition of their crimes after their discharge; the example of which punishment, it is desired, shall also operate to restrain others from entering upon and pursuing an equally criminal course. This object is effected, at the smallest possible cost to the community, by constructing their prison buildings, almost exclusively, with reference to the safe-keeping of the prisoners, making no arrangements for their separation, but congregating them together in large masses, with very little, if any, regard to difference in age or degrees of criminality. The consequence is, that instead of the prisoners being reformed or made better, by the discipline to which they are subjected, they are almost inevitably made worse; and many times, those who were committed on a charge of pocket-picking or some other minor offence, are fitted for burglars or the commission of the highest class of crimes on their discharge.

A valuable member of our Prison Society who has recently spent several years abroad, during which time he became very familiar with the penal system and the ar-

rangement and manner of conducting the prisons of one of the countries of Continental Europe, having frequently visited and personally inspected the prisons, speaks of it as being generally admitted amongst the people there, that reformation was no part of their plan, and was never expected to result from the imprisonment of criminals. We are happy, however, in the belief, that this system is now viewed by nearly all countries as being a relic of the barbarism of the dark ages, which, besides partaking of the character of cruelty, evidences great short-sightedness and want of wisdom, if we consider how its results affect the best interests of the community. Instead of being a school of reform, through whose influence the number of those from whom outrages might be apprehended would be lessened, if it does not actually increase them, it at least makes lifelong criminals of the most hardened character, of a large proportion of those subjected to its discipline, who, at the time of their first commitment, were by no means steeped in wickedness; many of them when quite young, having, in an unguarded moment, yielded to strong temptation to commit some minor offence, of which having been convicted, they have been thrust amongst the most abandoned outcasts of society, and soon lost to all hope of restoration, when by a really humane and Christian course of treatment they might have been led back from the by-paths into which they had, without due consideration, stepped, and have been brought to experience the happiness of a virtuous life, and to be a blessing instead of a curse to society.

We believe that all reflecting men must be convinced that the *reformation* of criminals, besides being a question of *expediency*, in which the community has a deep stake on the score of self-protection, is one, the promotion of which, so far as is in our power, is of the highest Christian obligation, in reference to both the temporal and eternal good of those who, having by their criminal conduct, forfeited the liberty enjoyed by the common mass of their fellow men, have, for the security of society, been committed to prison. In most Christian countries

reformation, on the ground of *expediency* at least, and we trust, under some sense of Christian duty, is now acknowledged to be properly *one* of the elements of their penal systems; and, consequently, some provisions, either theoretical or practical, are adopted for the promotion of this object. It is much to be regretted, however, that most of the existing prison systems are such as greatly to interfere with, and many of them almost wholly to defeat the accomplishment of this vitally important purpose. This state of things exists to a great extent, not only in Europe, but throughout most of the Commonwealths of the United States.

The systems are generally "*congregate*," either with little, if any, restraint from free social intercourse between the inmates, whatever may be their different degrees of depravity, or with the imposition of silence while together, and separation at night and at their meals only. The former of these, in our judgment, wholly excludes reformatory influences, unless it be through the immediate operation of Divine grace and mercy, which, we freely admit, can overrule obstacles however great; but this fact will not excuse us from doing our best to facilitate this operation. At the same time, also, that it excludes reformation, its attendant circumstances rapidly school the young offender in the ways of depravity and crime, and harden the more practiced in wickedness, and prepare them for the commission of still darker deeds than any they had previously been guilty of. Whilst the latter system, where *silence* is imposed, though certainly a step in advance of the former, as it cannot so extensively *propagate* criminality, yet from the fact that the prisoners cannot be approached separately, and that this system of silence and non-intercourse amongst them, under the strong temptation to the indulgence of their social propensities when placed in the presence of each other, is only maintained by harsh and severe discipline; reformatory agencies can hardly be brought to bear upon them, and efforts in this direction, very rarely, indeed, produce the desired effect.

It seems to us that what is generally known as the "Pennsylvania System," which is that of entire cellular separation of the prisoners, by which they are precluded from either seeing each other, or holding any kind of intercourse by word or sign, is far in advance of any other system of imprisonment yet introduced. We do not propose at this time to go into a general explanation of its peculiar features, but may merely advert to a few prominent points in support of this position.

First, as regards the effectual restraint of those found guilty of crime from continuing their outrages upon the community; its security against escape, is fully equal to, if not greater, than that under any other existing prison system, and its punitive character, though really humane and mild, is looked upon with much dread by the evil-disposed, on account of their being subjected to separation from their fellow convicts, and therefore it is potent in deterring from a criminal course.

These primary objects of imprisonment being thus effectually secured, we are next to consider what are its effects, evil or good, upon the moral condition of those subjected to its discipline. And here the results of our inquiries are pre-eminently satisfactory. From the thorough isolation maintained, we think it must be evident, that no prison under it can ever become a moral pest-house, where the depravity and wickedness of one prisoner may be communicated to another, or, as it were, prove contagious, and thus spread moral corruption around him. As neither the words, countenance, nor gestures of one can be heard or seen by another, it is clear, that those committed are not subjected to such influences whilst in confinement, as will make them morally worse on leaving, than when they entered.

Having thus demonstrated, as we trust, that our system, without doing a moral wrong to the offender, thoroughly effects the purpose for which society claims the *right* to imprison—that of self-protection, by placing him under secure restraint—we have next to consider what is its adaptation to the higher and less selfish purpose, which immediately follows as a Christian obliga-

tion, that of promoting his reformation. In the first place, then, as there is nothing in the working of the system which calls for harshness of treatment; it is administered on principles of kindness, and consequently, instead of the prisoners being hardened, and their vindictive and other evil passions being called into action, they are softened, and the better feelings of their nature (which with many had so long slept, that the degraded beings were hardly aware that they possessed them) are awakened. Under these favorable circumstances, those who are desirous of communicating moral or religious instruction can visit each prisoner in private in his separate cell, and when the service is accomplished, leave him to his reflections, without being disturbed by the presence, or deterred from a serious consideration of his condition by the scoffs of depraved companions.

The purpose of this essay has not been to suggest the details of any particular system of imprisonment, but to call attention to the general principles which should control the subject. And especially have we desired to impress upon the reader the vital truth, that if we would hope to reform the prisoner, we must treat him with comparative kindness. We must do nothing, which either is or seems to be, by way of revenge or retaliation. Under the present dispensation we must not exact "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." If we do this, the prisoner feels that he is persecuted, and that as society is doing its worst by him now, he will repay it upon his discharge. In effect, that as every man's hand is against him, his hand shall be against every man.

E. H. B.

THE following are the introductory remarks of a writer in the "North British Review" for February, 1863, to "Observations on the Treatment of Convicts in Ireland" and the Subject of Transportation, to wit:—

The public mind of England awakes periodically, and with a start, to a sense of the danger it incurs by the presence of a large criminal population in the very heart of the community, which is dealt with on no rational or consistent system, watched by no adequate police, and disposed of in no conclusive manner. We rave against the evil, we abuse our rulers, we insist upon a remedy being found, we listen eagerly to every quack and every philosopher, we discuss the subject passionately, illogically, and superficially; and we end by adopting some fresh plan which touches only a small fragment of the mischief, and darns only a small rent in the tattered garment, and which is usually some ill-digested and unworkable compromise between old habits and new fancies. We then grow sick of the subject, ashamed of our panic, and stupidly satisfied with our mild aperient and our emollient plaster, and go quietly to sleep again for another term of five or seven years. Meanwhile, however, there are two classes of men who never sleep: the criminals, who are always at work to invent new modes of preying on society and new dodges for evading justice; and the officials, who are always, after the fashion of their kind, and by a sort of ineradicable instinct, wriggling back into the old channels, and falling away into their normal inertness. There was such an awakening as we have described in 1853; there was another in 1857; there is another now. Let us see whether this last cannot be made to yield some better and more lasting fruit than its predecessors.

That the evil is a very great one no one can doubt. It amounts to a positive insecurity of life and property which is disgraceful in the richest, most civilized, most complicated society on earth. At this moment, the number living by depredation and outrage, and known to belong to the criminal class, is estimated to reach in the United Kingdom to 130,000. In this year, 1863, a considerable portion of the respectable inhabitants of London are reduced to carry concealed weapons for their own defence; and this from no groundless apprehensions, but because they *may* any day be called upon to use them, and often *are*. We annually commit to, and liberate

from, our county jails in England and Wales, at least 180,000 offenders, a very large proportion, if not the majority, of whom are habitual pilferers, burglars, or in other ways violators of the law, and recognized preyers upon the industrious and peaceful part of the community. Besides these, we turn loose every year, at the expiration of their sentence of penal servitude, or shortly before its expiration, 3000 convicts, nearly all of whom are professional, finished, hardened offenders, and all of whom, with scarcely any exceptions worth naming, have been confined for crimes in which ruffianism and dishonesty were combined. Of these 3000, at least 2500 on an average are liberated in this country, and almost invariably go back to their evil courses, more vicious, more skillful, more irreclaimable than ever. Many of them have been convicted several times, never dream of adopting an honest mode of life, and could not do so if they wished. In a word, we have among us an army—very active, very well trained, tolerably organized, very resolute, and in part very desperate—of internecine enemies and spoliators, as numerous as the troops of most European kingdoms, and more numerous than the military and police forces in our own country combined. This is the evil we have to deal with. It is an evil, in some degree and in some form, incidental to every large and populous community; but the form and degree depend entirely on our own management. We may reduce it to the minimum which human temptation to wrong and the imperfection of human powers of repression must always leave, a minimum which would be seldom heard of and little felt, and which should be always tending to decrease. Or we may suffer it, as we are in a fair way to do now, to augment and intensify year by year till it reaches the maximum compatible with a comfortable existence and a secure civilization. Now what we affirm is, that, for the height to which it has reached at the present moment, we have only ourselves to thank. For a long time back, in spite of ceaseless warning, and ignoring all the lessons of experience, physiology, and common sense, we have done little to repress crime and much to encourage it. Our plans of dealing with it have been based upon no clear understanding and no settled principle; the changes we have introduced from time to time, have been either inconsistent *nibblings* or mutually destructive fluctuations; we have neither aimed at felling the tree, nor at cutting off the nourishment from its roots; we have simply pruned the branches, and contented ourselves with wondering that it should flourish still. We believe that all this is remediable still, though the mischief has assumed such vast dimensions; but that which is imperatively needed before we can

hope to remedy it is, that we should boldly face all patent facts; that we should courageously accept all undeniable conclusions from those facts; that we should at once and for ever place sentiment under the control and supremacy of sense; that no inconvenience should drive us to do injustice to others; and that no expense should make us shrink from doing justice to ourselves.

Criminals, the moment we look at them closely and analytically, divide themselves into two distinct categories—the casual and the habitual. Many of the more trifling, and some of the most heinous offenders, belong to the former class. Temptation there will always be; and this will be liable to increase with the progress and complexity of civilization, as long as some are poor and some are rich, and as long as the appliances of wealth are spread out in the sight of the struggling and needy. Defective moral natures there will always be—natures weak to resist and prone to fall; but these, it is to be hoped, will diminish as comfort and instruction penetrate among the masses. Passions will always exist among all ranks, and passions will occasionally burst through the restraints of morality and law. Boys will thief who are no worse than idle, neglected, and ill-trained. Poor men, who are habitually respectable, will steal under circumstances of sudden and desperate necessity. Clerks will occasionally forge or rob to avert exposure, to meet debt, or to purchase vicious pleasures. Any man, in any rank, of violent or malignant temper and ill-disciplined mind, may, in a moment of provocation or of fury, be guilty of manslaughter; or, if he be thoroughly bad and licentious, may outrage a defenceless woman, or murder one whom he hates, or whose possession he desires. Crimes and criminals of this sort, however, are not those that embarrass our police, and perplex our rulers and philosophers; they do not constitute the social problem we have to solve. They are the casual outbreaks of human vice and passion, incidental to all stages and forms of civilization, and incurable by any. But besides and independent of these cases, we have among us a large population, numbered by thousands and tens of thousands, who *live by* outrage and depredation; to whom crime is an employment and *profession*; who are brought up to it; who have no other teaching, no other vocation, no other resource; to whom the respectable and industrious portion of society is the oyster they have to open; who prey upon the community, and sometimes hate it also. They are simply the enemies of society; and the protection of society against them constitutes precisely the difficulty which at this moment our

thinkers have to master, and the duty which our rulers have to discharge.

Now we do not say that the obstacles and embarrassments with which the solution of the problem is surrounded are not actually great, because they are. But the problem itself is neither difficult nor obscure, as soon as we take pains to place before ourselves distinctly its precise nature and conditions. The thing to be done is simple enough; the impediments in the way of doing it are nearly all of our own creation, arising partly out of ignorance or thoughtlessness, and partly out of willfulness; partly because we have not fully understood what we had to do, and partly because we have been unwilling to accept the consequences and incur the annoyance and expense of doing it. Divested of all complications, our task is to *defend ourselves* against the criminal population,—the professional criminals; to guard society against their outrages and depredations in the most prompt, effectual, and enduring fashion we can devise. That is all: we have NOT to *punish* them; and we shall only confuse our minds and perplex our action if we try to do so. It is the almost universal neglect of this vital distinction, more than any other error, which has led us into such grotesque and inconceivable blunders. *Individuals* may regard these offenders in any light which harmonizes with their several idiosyncracies. Some may look at them as objects of vengeance; some as objects of compassion; some as subjects of conversion; some as patients to be cured; some as unfortunate lunatics to be carefully and comfortably confined: and there may be much truth in all these different views, and they may be allowed to influence some of the *details* of the practical treatment of criminals in prison and on their discharge from prison. But *the State*, as we said, has only got to protect the community against them—to regard them as domestic foes, against whom self-defence is legitimate and necessary. The reason why it should not seek to *punish* them, in the strict and proper meaning of that word, is, that it has not the knowledge requisite for the just discharge of that function. It cannot possibly apportion the penalty it inflicts to the *guilt* of the offender, which apportionment constitutes the very essence of *punishment*. Neither the wisest judge, nor the most patient and enlightened jury, nor the most omniscient police officer, can do more than form a plausible conjecture as to the *moral criminality* of any convict; since this, it is obvious, must depend on the organization which he inherited, on the antecedents which have surrounded him from the cradle, on the degree of instruction he has received, on the special nature and *adaptation* of the temptation, on a multitude of circum-

stances which we neither can know, nor could estimate if we did. The State, too, is just as incompetent to estimate the severity of the infliction as the guilt of the offence. How is the legislator who awards, or the judge who pronounces, to ascertain the weight and bearing of any given sentence upon any individual culprit? The same penalty which to one man would be almost too lenient for a theft, may, to a differently organized and differently trained offender, be too severe almost for a murder. The educated convict, whose ungoverned passion led him to a heinous but a single crime, would be driven mad by the association and the *entourage* which the habitual and hardened ruffian would find congenial and even pleasant. Punishment which *retributes*, like vengeance which *repays*, can, by its very term, belong only to that higher intelligence which can estimate aright both the debt to be repaid, and the intrinsic value of the coin in which repayment is awarded.

The thing to be done, then, being ascertained, the next point for consideration is how to do it. Now, society may protect itself against habitual criminals in three ways, separately or in combination. It may deal with him so as to *deter* him, to *reform* him, or to *get rid* of him. It may so arrange and contrive its penalties as to frighten him from bad courses, or to incapacitate him from recurring to them, or to persuade him to amend them. And, putting out of view the very few whom it will or can hang, it has to effect these objects by such secondary punishments as lie within its reach, as the public purse will pay for, and public conscience and feeling will allow the State to inflict.

MEMBERS.

Ashhurst, Lewis R.
 Armstrong, William
 Anderson, V. William
 Atmore, Frederick B.

Brown, John A.
 Brown, Frederick
 Brown, Moses
 Brown, Thomas Wistar
 Brown, Abraham C.
 Brown, N. B.
 Brown, David S.
 Brown, Joseph D.
 Brown, Benneville D.
 Brown, Mary D.
 Bell, John M. D.
 Biddle, William
 Biddle, John
 Barton, Isaac
 Burgin, George H., M. D.
 Bohlen, John
 Binney, Horace, Jr.
 Bayard, James
 Beesley, T. E., M. D.
 Beesley, B. Wistar
 Bowen, William E.
 Bettie, Samuel
 Bettie, William
 Baldwin, Matthias W.
 Barcroft, Stacy B.
 Bailey, Joshua L.
 Bailly, Joel J.
 Burr, William H.
 Boardman, H. A.
 Bunting, Jacob T.
 Bacon, Richard W.
 Bacon, Josiah
 Brock, Jonathan
 Barclay, Andrew C.
 Brooke, Stephen H.
 Baines, Edward
 Budd, Thomas A.
 Bispham, Samuel
 Broadbent, S.
 Brant, Josiah
 Beaux, John Adolph

Corse, J. M., M. D.
 Cope, Alfred
 Cope, M. C.
 Cope, Henry
 Cope, Francis R.
 Cope, Thomas P.
 Colwell, Stephen

Caldwell, James E.
 Caldwell, William Warner
 Cresson, John C.
 Claghorn, John W.
 Chandler, Joseph R.
 Carter, John
 Carter, John E.
 Campbell, James R.
 Comegys, B. B.
 Childs, George W.
 Child, H. T., M. D.
 Chance, Jeremiah C.
 Coates, Benjamin
 Chamberlain, Lloyd
 Conrad, James M.
 Cooke, Jay
 Collier, Daniel L.
 Comly, Franklin A.

Demmé, Charles R.
 Ducachet, Henry W.
 Dawson, Mordecai L.
 Dorsey, William
 Dutilh, E. G.
 Ditzler, William U.
 Dreer, Ferdinand J.
 Dickinson, Mahlon H.
 Davis, R. C.
 Derbyshire, Alexander J.
 Derbyshire, John
 Dennis, William H.
 Duane, William

Earp, Thomas
 Evans, Charles, M. D.
 Evans, William, Jr.
 Evans, Robert E.
 Evans, J. Wistar
 Erringer, J. L.
 Edwards, William L.
 Elkinton, Joseph
 Elkinton, George M.
 Ellison, John B.
 Emlen, Samuel
 Eyre, Edward E.
 Eyre, William
 Erety, George

Farnum, John
 Fraley, Frederick
 Fullerton, Alex.
 Farr, John C.
 Frazier, John F.
 Ford, William

- Ford, John M.
 Furness, William H.
 Field, Charles J.
 Fox, Henry C.
 Franciscus, Albert H.
 Funk, Charles W.

 Garrett, Thomas C.
 Griffin, E., M. D.
 Greeves, James R.
 Gilpin, John F.
 Grigg, John
 Gummere, Charles J.
 Gardiner, Richard, M. D.

 Hunt, Uriah
 Hockley, John
 Holloway, John S.
 Husband, Thomas
 Hughes, Joseph B.
 Homer, Henry
 Homer, Benjamin
 Hancock, Samuel P.
 Hand, James C.
 Hazeltine, John
 Hastings, Matthew
 Huston, Samuel
 Hacker, Morris
 Hacker, William
 Hunt, William, M. D.
 Hurley, Aaron A.
 Harbert, Charles

 Ingersoll, Joseph R.
 Ingram, William
 Iungerich, Lewis

 Jackson, Charles C.
 Janney, Benjamin S., Jr.
 Jeanes, Joshua T.
 Jenks, William P.
 Jones, Isaac C.
 Jones, Jacob P.
 Jones, Isaac T.
 Jones, William D.
 Jones, Justus P.
 Jones, William Pennel
 Johnson, Israel H.
 Johnson, Ellwood
 Johnston, Robert S.
 Justice, Philip S.

 Kaighn, James E.
 Kane, Thomas L.
 Kelly, William D.
 Kelly, Henry H.
 Ketcham, John
 Kiderlen, William L. J.

 Kimber, Thomas
 Kingsbury, Charles A., M. D.
 Kinsey, William
 Kirkpatrick, James A.
 Kintzing, William F.
 Kitchen, James, M. D.
 Kneidler, J. S.
 Knight, Edward C.
 Knorr, G. Frederick
 Klapp, Joseph, M. D.

 Laing, Henry M.
 Lambert, John
 Landell, Washington J.
 Lathrop, Charles C.
 Latimer, Thomas
 Leeds, Josiah W.
 Lewis, Henry, Jr.
 Lewis, Edward
 Lippincott, John
 Lippincott, Joshua
 Longstreth, J. Cooke
 Lovering, Joseph S.
 Lovering, Joseph S., Jr.
 Ludwig, William C.
 Lynch, William
 Lytle, John J.

 McCall, Peter
 Meredith, William M.
 Milliken, George
 Myers, John B.
 Morris, Isaac P.
 Massey, Robert V.
 Maris, John M.
 Morris, Charles M.
 Morris, Wistar
 Morris, Caspar, M. D.
 Morris, Anthony P.
 Morris, Elliston P.
 Montgomery, Richard R.
 Mercer, Singleton A.
 Mullen, William J.
 Megarge, Charles
 Martin, William
 Martin, Abraham
 McAllister, John, Jr.
 McAllister, John A.
 McAllister, William Y.
 Macadam, William R.
 McAllister, F. H.
 Marsh, Benjamin V.
 Morton, Samuel C.
 Merrill, William O. B.
 Morrell, R. B.
 Mellor, Thomas
 Mitcheson, M. J.

Norris, Samuel
Neall, Daniel
Needles, William N.
Nesmith, Alfred
Nicholson, William
Neuman, L. C.

Ormsby, Henry
Orne, Benjamin

Purves, William
Parrish, William D.
Parrish, Joseph, M. D.
Poulson, Charles A.
Perot, William S.
Perot, Francis
Perot, Charles P.
Perot, T. Morris
Patterson, Joseph
Patterson, Morris
Patterson, William C.
Potter, Alonzo, D.D.
Price, Eli K.
Price, Richard
Pearsall, Robert
Pitfield, Benjamin H.
Peters, James
Peterson, Lawrence
Potts, Joseph
Parry, Samuel
Palmer, Charles
Perkins, Henry .

Quinn, John A.

Richardson, Richard
Richardson, William H.
Robins, Thomas
Robins, John, Jr.
Ritter, Abraham, Jr.
Rasin, Warner M.
Read, W. H. J.
Robb, Charles
Rehn, William L.
Rutter, Clement S.
Ruth, John
Roberts, Algernon S.
Ridgway, Thomas
Robinson, Thomas A.
Randolph, Philip P.
Rowland, A. G.
Richards, George K.
Smedley, Nathan
Shippen, William, M. D.
Scully, David
Schaffer, William L.
Scattergood, Joseph

Shannon, Ellwood
Sharpless, William P.
Simons, George W.
Smith, Nathan
Stokes, Shmuel E.
Shoemaker, Benjamin H.
Speakman, Thomas H.
Starr, F. Ratchford
Saunders, McPherson
Stokes, Edward D.
Sloan, Samuel
Smith, Joseph P.
Stone, James N.
Simes, Samuel
Stuart, George H.
Stewart, William S.
Stevens, Edwin P.

Townsend, Edward
Taylor, Franklin
Taylor, John D.
Taylor, George W.
Trowendt, Theodore
Tredick, B. T.
Thomas, John
Taber, George
Troutman, George M.
Thornley, Joseph H.
Thissel, H. N.

Van Pelt, Peter
Vaux, George

Wharton, Thomas F.
Wood, Horatio C.
Wood, Richard, Jr.
Welsh, William
Welsh, Samuel
Welsh, John
Wetherill, John M.
Williamson, Passmore
White, John J.
Wainwright, William
Wright, Samuel
Wright, Isaac
Willets, Jeremiah
Wiegand, John
Wilstach, William P.
Williamson, Peter
Warner, Redwood F.
Walton, Coates
Williams, Jacob T.
Wilson, Ellwood, M. D.
Woodward, Charles W.
Whilldin, Alexander.

Zell, T. Ellwood

LIFE MEMBERS.

ON PAYMENT OF TWENTY DOLLARS AND UPWARDS.

Barclay, James J.
 Bache, Franklin, M. D.
 Bonsall, Edward H.
 Besson, Charles A.

Cope, Caleb

Ellis, Charles

Fottrel, Stephen G.
 Foulke, William P.

Hacker, Jeremiah
 Horton, John
 Hollingsworth, Thomas G.

Knight, Reeve L.

Leaming, J. Fisher
 Love, Alfred H.
 Longstreth, William W.

Marshall, Richard M.

Ogden, John M.

Perot, Joseph
 Perkins, Samuel H.
 Parrish, Dillwyn
 Powers, Thomas H.
 Potter, Thomas

Sharpless, Townsend
 Sharpless, Charles L.
 Sharpless, Samuel J.
 Steedman, Miss Rosa

Turnpenny, Joseph C.
 Townsend, Samuel

Whelen, E. S.
 Willits, A. A.
 Weightman, William
 Williams, Henry J.
 Waln, S. Morris

Yarnall, Charles
 Yarnall, Benjamin H.

ARTICLE IV.

The Treasurer shall keep the moneys and securities, and pay all orders of the Society or of the Acting Committee, signed by the presiding officer and Secretary; and shall present a statement of the condition of the finances of the Society at each stated meeting thereof.

All bequests, donations, and life subscriptions, shall be safely invested; only the income thereof to be applied to the current expenses of the Society.

ARTICLE V.

The Acting Committee shall consist of the officers of the Society, ex-officio, and fifty other members. They shall visit the prison at least twice a month, inquire into the circumstances of the prisoners, and report such abuses as they shall discover, to the proper officers appointed to remedy them. They shall examine the influence of confinement on the morals of the prisoners. They shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings, which shall be submitted at every stated meeting of the Society; and shall be authorized to fill vacancies occurring in their own body, whether arising from death, or removal from the city; or from inability or neglect to visit the prisons in accordance with their regulations. They shall also have the sole power of electing new members.

ARTICLE VI.

Candidates for membership may be proposed at any meeting of the Society or of the Acting Committee; but no election shall take place within ten days after such nomination. Each member shall pay an annual contribution of two dollars; but the payment of twenty dollars at any one time shall constitute a life membership.

ARTICLE VII.

Honorary members may be elected at such times as the Society may deem expedient.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Society shall hold stated meetings on the *fourth* fifth-day (Thursday) in the months called January, April, July, and October, of whom seven shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX.

No alterations of the Constitution shall be made, unless the same shall have been proposed at a stated meeting of the Society held not less than a month previous to the adoption of such alterations. All questions shall be decided where there is a division, by a majority of votes; in those where the Society is equally divided, the presiding officer shall have the casting vote.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT,—JAMES J. BARCLAY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS, { TOWNSEND SHARPLESS,
WILLIAM SHIPPEN, M. D.

TREASURER,—EDWARD H. BONSALE.

SECRETARIES, { JOHN J. LYTLE,
EDWARD TOWNSEND.

COUNSELLORS, { HENRY J. WILLIAMS,
CHARLES GIBBONS.

Members of the Acting Committee.

Charles Ellis,	Mahlon H. Dickinson,	Joseph R. Chandler,
William S. Perot,	William Ingram,	Samuel Townsend,
Thomas Latimer,	James Peters,	Albert G. Roland,
John M. Wetherill,	Robert E. Evans,	Benj. H. Shoemaker,
Abram C. Brown,	Charles Palmer,	Lewis C. Neuman,
Benjamin H. Pitfield,	Charles P. Perot,	Wm. Warner C.
James E. Kaighn,	Charles C. Lathrop,	Henry Perkins,
Alfred H. Love,	William Dorsey,	George M. Elkins,
Jeremiah Willits,	Abram Martin,	William R. MacAdam,
William H. Burr,	John Adolph Beaux,	J. M. Corse, M. D.
Jacob T. Bunting,	Wm. Armstrong, M. D.	E. Griffin, M. D.
John C. Farr,	Wm. Nicholson,	William Hacker,
George Taber,	Charles W. Funk,	John E. Carter,
William L. J. Kiderlen,	Philip P. Randolph,	

Visiting Committee on the Eastern Penitentiary.

Townsend Sharpless,	George Taber,	William Nicholson,
Edward H. Bonsale,	William L. J. Kiderlen,	Charles W. Funk,
John J. Lytle,	Mahlon H. Dickinson,	Samuel Townsend,
Edward Townsend,	James Peters,	Albert G. Roland,
Abram C. Brown,	Robert E. Evans,	Benj. H. Shoemaker,
James E. Kaighn,	William R. MacAdam,	William Hacker,
Alfred H. Love,	Charles Palmer,	J. M. Corse, M. D.
Jeremiah Willits,	William Dorsey,	E. Griffin, M. D.
William H. Burr,		

Visiting Committee on the County Prison.

William Shippén, M. D.,	John C. Farr,	Philip P. Randolph,
Charles Ellis,	William Ingram,	Joseph R. Chandler,
William S. Perot,	Charles P. Perot,	L. C. Neuman,
Thomas Latimer,	Charles C. Lathrop,	Henry Perkins,
John M. Wetherill,	Abram Martin,	George M. Elkins,
Benj. H. Pitfield,	John Adolph Beaux,	Wm. Warner C.
Jacob T. Bunting,	Wm. Armstrong, M. D.,	John E. Carter,

WM. J. MULLEN is Agent of the County Prison, appointing Inspectors, and acting under their direction, and also appointing Prison Society.

THE JOURNAL
OF
PRISON DISCIPLINE
AND
PHILANTHROPY.

PUBLISHED ANNUALLY

IN THE DIRECTION OF "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR
ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS,"
INSTITUTED 1787.

JANUARY, 1864.

PHILADELPHIA:
J. B. LIPPINCOTT, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
Nos. 306 AND 308 CHESTNUT STREET.

1864.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.

When we consider that the obligations of benevolence which are founded on the precepts and examples of the Author of Christianity, are not cancelled by the follies or crimes of our fellow-creatures; and when we reflect upon the miseries which penury, hunger, cold, unnecessary severity, unwholesome apartments, and guilt, (the usual attendants of prisons,) involve with them, it becomes us to extend our compassion to that part of mankind who are the subjects of those miseries. By the aid of humanity, their undue and illegal sufferings may be prevented; the links which should bind the whole family of mankind together, under all circumstances, be preserved unbroken; and such degrees and modes of punishment may be discovered and suggested, as may, instead of continuing habits of vice, become the means of restoring our fellow-creatures to virtue and happiness. From a conviction of the truth and obligation of these principles, the subscribers have associated themselves under the title of "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS."

For effecting these purposes, they have adopted the following CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, two Counsellors, and an Acting Committee; all of whom shall be chosen at the stated meeting to be held in the first month (January) of each year, and shall continue in office until their successors are elected; but in case an election, from any cause, shall not be then held, it shall be the duty of the President to call a special meeting of the Society within thirty days, for the purpose of holding such election, of which at least three days' notice shall be given.

ARTICLE II.

The President shall preside in all meetings, and subscribe all public acts of the Society. He may call special meetings whenever he may deem it expedient; and shall do so when requested in writing by five members. In his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents may act in his place.

ARTICLE III.

The Secretaries shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the Society, and shall conduct its correspondence.

NEW SERIES.

NO. III.

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OF

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AND

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1864.

JUN 24 1927

*Rooms of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating }
the Miseries of Public Prisons. }*

At a meeting of the Acting Committee of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, held on the evening of the First Month, (January) 21, 1864, the Editorial Board, (appointed to take charge of the Journal and papers, and the Annual Report,) consisting of Joseph R. Chandler, James J. Barclay, Edward H. Bonsall, and James M. Corse, M. D.,* presented the Annual Report, which, having been considered and approved, was ordered to be transmitted to the Society.

At the Annual Meeting of the Society, held First Month, (January) 28, 1864, the Report of the "Acting Committee." was presented, and after consideration, was referred back to the Acting Committee, with instructions to cause the whole (or such parts thereof as might be deemed best) to be printed in the usual form, with any other matter that should be thought advisable.

At a meeting of the Acting Committee, Second Month (February) 11, 1864, it was ordered that the Annual Report, signed by the President and Secretary, be referred to the members by whom it was proposed, with instructions to them to cause a suitable number of copies thereof to be printed.

JOHN J. LYTLE, *Secretary.*

* It may be proper to state that Townsend Sharpless, one of the Vice Presidents of the Society, was appointed on this Board, but was prevented by sickness from taking part in its labors, and he died before the Report was made to the Acting Committee.

REPORT.

IN presenting the Report of the Seventy-Eighth Year of the labors of "The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," we are struck with what in this country may be regarded as a remarkable instance of longevity. Few benevolent societies in the United States survive their founders. Some effect a certain object and are allowed to fall into uselessness and disorganization. Others arise, with kindred purposes and similar means, and produce other good with an advantage of new zeal and fresh machinery. In Europe numerous philanthropic associations have outlived their usefulness, not so much from a diminution of the numbers that need aid, as from changes in their circumstances. The funds do not fail, but the right to apply them, in the changed condition of society, has ceased. The continued existence of the association is secured by the capital upon which it was founded, and the lumbering machinery is annually reviewed by those charged with its custody, and it is then consigned to another year's seclusion and repose. The dust of antiquity settles upon it, to give it an interest with some, but the idea of usefulness is no longer entertained.

In many of the cases of defunct associations in *this* country, the wrongs or sufferings that suggested their organization were only temporary, and with the accomplishment of their objects they ceased to exist, or they have given place to others better adapted to the good ends proposed. Most of the still remaining inoperative associations of the old world were called into existence by permanent evils, but their usefulness was made temporary by certain fixed requirements that were soon to render them inapplicable to the changes in the political, religious and social condition of the people. But "The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," has before it a work, which though it may vary with time, is not likely to lessen. While society exists we shall have vice and crime; while vice and crime abound we must have prisons to restrain the violators of the laws; and while prisons have inmates, the duty of reforming their morals and ameliorating their condition, will devolve upon some of those who seek the good of society by the improvement of individuals. That duty in its broadest sense has been assumed by this Association. Not merely to lessen the sufferings of the condemned, not alone to assist the innocent, not merely to teach sound morals to those who are suffering from a violation of the laws of God and man, not merely to prevent a too rigid enforcement of special enactments, not alone to prescribe and ensure a separate confinement to the condemned, but so to use that confinement that vice or crime, so communicable in its character, shall not propagate itself through the cells of the prison, and thus make a penitentiary a nursery for misconduct rather

than a school for mental and moral discipline; not alone to deal justly and faithfully with a convict while he occupies his cell, but to secure to him, when he shall have completed his penal term, some position in which he may carry into effect his good resolves, without incurring risk from those associates that led him into crime, and especially to secure him from recognition in the world by those who have passed months or years of separate confinement in the same prison with him. We repeat it, it is no one of these measures that is the single or even the great object of the Society. It is every one of them, separate, or all of them combined, with whatever else may present itself for alleviation or correction in the affairs of prisons or the condition of prisoners. Nor is this all; while this Society has in view the whole of these and other benefits, it is no less its intention to continue its labor of benevolence as much upon the fruit of its own existence as upon the evils which it was organized to ameliorate. The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, will accommodate its labors to the new state which its exertions may have produced, and, thus, what has been improved to-day may be perfected to-morrow. Nor does it escape the notice of the Society that new work is presented or new forms of labor are suggested as the system which it produces becomes more and more operative. The vicious are to be reclaimed by gentle exhortations and encouraging sympathy. The young criminal is, by kind monitions and encouraging confidence, to be lured from the path into which he has been seduced, and the felon is to be made to understand that there is a hope of re-

gaining the respect of society by that repentance which consists as much in reparation for the wrong and resolves for the future, as in regret for the past ; or, failing to acquire for himself the forfeited regard of his fellow men, he may secure a hope of a better rest. True philanthropy seems but the embodiment of religion, and never do the consolations of the Divine promises operate with greater efficacy than when they are poured upon the heart of the convict in the solitude of his cell.

In claiming for the Association such an extensive field and such a variety of labors, we do not overrate its plans nor over-estimate its means and devotion. It may safely be said that as no circumstances of the prisoner are beyond the aim of the Society, so no class of prisoners are excluded from its benevolent intentions. The visitor of the Society when he presents himself at the cell of the prisoner, is not to be deterred by the rank, grade, condition or color of the prisoner. Nor are his efforts to be lessened by any circumstances of his case. We must say with the Roman,

" Homo sum ; et humani a me nil alienum puto."

I am a man, and nothing which relates to man can be foreign to my bosom.

And it is a part of the qualification of the visitor of the Society, that he can accommodate himself and his ministrations to the varied circumstances of the occupants of the cell, becoming all things to all classes, that he may gain access to their confidence. Failing in all this, as almost any one must come short of some of the objects of his charitable effort, it is a part of the

wisdom and prudence of the representatives of the Society to discern their own want of adaptation to the peculiar circumstance of the prisoner, and call in the aid of those who by different gifts, by other attainments, or higher functions may be better qualified to meet the wants of a particular case.

The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the miseries of Public Prisons, is known by its works. It desires to be judged according to those works. Some of the Society's efforts have obtained for it European fame, while a part of its labors are of so humble a class as to be little known beyond the cell of the vagrant, or in the small circle of which such a beneficiary may form a part. The great system that seems to concern all mankind, that of separate confinement, is discussed, understood, and partially practised in Europe, and if it is not general, the cause is not so much a want of confidence in the system as a want of the deep, practical interest in the unfortunate victims, which should lead governments and legislators to incur the expense of erecting buildings, especially for penal purposes, adapted to the idea of separate confinement and special discipline, as substitutes for those prisons which are only modifications of antiquated palaces, abandoned convents, or delapidated baronial castles. Even the houses that were constructed for prisons owe their erection in many cases to a time when confinement and cruelty were the means of public or private vengeance, and when the convicted felon became an outcast for life, or rather when the conviction of felony was the Cain mark for perpetual infamy.

The Society is represented in its labors at the prisons in Philadelphia by two Committees. The duties of one of which are confined to the Eastern Penitentiary, in Coates street; the other committee is appointed to labor at the County Prison, in Moyamensing. These two committees are really practical operatives. They have little to do with theories or plans. Their work is in the cells of the prisoners or at the doors of the cells, and their dealings are directly with the individual.

In the experience of the visitors of the Society to the two prisons, there is necessarily great difference arising out of the different circumstances of the inmates of the County Prison and those of the Eastern Penitentiary. In the latter the length of incarceration and the closeness of the application of the rule of separate confinement, seems to break up so entirely the relations of the prisoner with the world from which he is banished, that many seem willing to listen to the admonition of visiting friends, and to accept the invitation to review their lives and to form resolves of future amendment. Not merely do the monitions and invitations, of the visitors to the cells, lead prisoners to promises of good, but the isolation of their condition and a want of outward objects to strike their senses and occupy their minds induce them to thought, to meditation, and lead them to the commencement of that reformation, or, at least those solemn resolves of reformation which are the object of their imprisonment. It can scarcely be doubted, that almost every prisoner in the Penitentiary who has been frequently visited by those who evince an anxiety for his temporal and spiritual good, has been led to re-

solve to refrain from the crimes which placed him in prison, and to seek a maintenance in the world by means which that world sanctions and which God approves; but it is certain that a large portion of those who thus resolve, find it easier on their return to the world to resume their associations and habits and to become three fold more offenders against the laws than they had been. In vice and crime there is no halting, they are progressive; he who has yielded to their influence must be carried forward with their advancement, or he must renounce entirely their influence. The *arts* of crime are like all other arts by which a man undertakes to acquire position or a living; they demand advancement. Pride in success leads to undertakings of difficulty, and he who enters a jail a "sneaking thief," may be stimulated by professional emulation to advance in crime till he attains the dignity of a penitentiary cell for some boldly executed robbery, or some brilliant act of extensive forgery. The released half converted criminal feels all this, but he feels the difficulty of relinquishing plans of life which seem to have been divested of a part of their chances of defeat by the very imprisonment into which they led him; and, as a resolution to reform does not always include the means by which virtuous living may be obtained, the outgoing prisoner finds in his circumstances an excuse for violating the resolutions of good, or postponing their fulfilment till at length he becomes involved in the same labyrinth of difficulties and crimes that caused his former incarceration. Is he then to be neglected? Is he then to be cast off? Is he then to be marked as one who has forfeited, with the

esteem of the good, the right to the cares of the good? The Great Master of benevolence gave no such advice, nor did He sanction such conduct by example. He to whom all hearts are open, and who, aware of the evils and hostility of vice and ambition, at once their object and their pardoner, He never but once refused time and attention to the profitless; and His only positive direct malediction was upon the unfruitful fig-tree that had outlived its time of usefulness, and which, under His frown, withered into a leafless and lifeless condition, that could experience no resuscitation.

If we confess, as we must, that much of the evils which we deplore in the prisoner, is the result of adverse circumstances, then we must also admit that he may owe a future reform or repentance to some favorable circumstance, to that circumstance which the thoughtless and the infidel deem the providence of man's fate, but which reason and religion declare to be the instrument of God's care of his creatures. It is the duty of the philanthropist to provide for such a contingency, to have in the mind of the offender an appreciation of wrong and right, so that when unexpectedly the *circumstance* occurs, there may be a knowledge of its capabilities and a readiness to improve it.

In preparing this Report, reference was had to the fact, that some of the great objects of the Society have already been discussed in every light, and with masterly effect. Essays given in the publications of the Society, from men of distinguished talent, have been productive of great good in strengthening the confidence of active members, and in removing prejudices from the minds of those who lacked experience to correct false impressions.

The great system of separate confinement has been presented to the public in a most convincing paper, by an able writer of this city, so that, for the present, it seems only necessary, in our Annual Report, to make a short reference to the system, and then to allow a statement of the proceedings of the Society to illustrate its effect.

It is the object, then, in the *present* Report, rather to make known the details of proceedings, than to announce the abstract views upon which action is founded; to give up this Annual Report to a presentation of the mode of procedure; to a detail of the daily duties of the active members and agents; to a consideration of some of the antagonistic circumstances that hinder our progress, and to the means upon which reliance must be placed in efforts to alleviate the miseries of prisons.

In attempting to present the report under various heads, it was found difficult to avoid a repetition of argument and explanation, or rather, having made the repetition, it was found difficult to correct the text without impairing the fulness of that part of the subject. Indeed, when it is considered that with the exception of enlightening the public mind, to procure co-operation, and soliciting legislative enactments to enable the Society to act more beneficially upon prisons, and through them on the prisoner, the great work of alleviating the miseries of public prisons, is to be upon the minds of individuals, we shall comprehend how all the divisions of the actions of the Society centre upon the single prisoner. Not for sympathy alone, but for amendment, must we "take a single captive," and so, in reporting upon the ac-

tion of the Agent; upon the doings of the various Committees; in setting forth the success, or want of success, at the Penitentiary or the County Prison; in referring to the movements on behalf of males or females; in the plans for future action, as on the records of the past, it is the incarcerated individual, it is the single mind whose experience we are to record, or whose susceptibilities we are to note. Hence it has seemed almost natural, at least it is hoped that it will be regarded as excusable, that what is the great means of all our hopes of alleviating the miseries of prisons, viz., separate confinement, and consequently individual dealing, should pervade every division of the report of our proceedings.

SEPARATE CONFINEMENT.

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The distinguishing feature of the discipline which this Society has advocated for Penitentiaries, is that which the world misrepresents by denominating it *solitary* confinement, and which it discredits by arguments founded not on past experience, but resting upon the probable effects upon the minds of the prisoners of total solitude and utter separation from association, sight and converse with man. We do not pretend to say what would be the effect of such a condition. Our object is not the condemnation of an untried system, but the exposition of the benefits of that which has been well tested. The amelioration not the augmentation of prison discipline is the object of our Association. The permanent benefit of society through the improvement of individuals, or the eternal benefit of individuals, by making the prison a school of reform rather than a place of torture. Separate confinement is the object that has been proposed—and wherever obtained, it has produced, if not all the good which had been hoped for, at least more than any other system that has been adopted, and has satisfied those who are engaged officially or voluntarily in its administration, that its benefits are progressive. By the separation of the convict from his fellow criminals, he is taken from the concerted

plans and practices of crime, and placed where none may approach him but officers charged with the care of his person, or those who visit his cell with messages of kindness. People who, sensible of his guilt, but hopeful of his reformation, approach him in a spirit of kindness, and, satisfying him that they seek his good, and not their own benefit, gain admittance to his heart, win his confidence, and produce, perhaps, solemn resolutions to amend. He sees, in the narrow confines of his cell, and he feels, in the strictness of the discipline to which he is subjected, the terrors of the violated law. But he comprehends, in the oft-repeated lessons of love that are given to him by the Society's visitors, that, prone as he is to crime, he is the object of human solicitude and the subject of divine mercy. And in time he understands also, that, had he been released with the first resolution to repent, he would have missed of reform. He comprehends that time and retirement were necessary to the germination of the seeds which had been planted in his heart, and a long season of abstraction from society could alone have matured the fruits of repentance. Solitude—entire solitude—might have embittered his heart against the social compact by which he was suffering. He may have had learning, but he probably lacked that moral education, that culture of the heart, by which he could easily discern the rightful dependence of punishment on crime, or his responsibility to society for the talents he possessed, and the uses to which he applied them. In utter loneliness, he would have brooded over his privations, and, recalling the hundreds whom he knew equally guilty, but wholly unpunished, he would

have regarded his condition as of special, unequalled, and gross injustice, and might have sought liberty and life to revenge himself on man ; or, wearying of existence, and despairing of relief, he would have "cursed God and died." Utter solitude to the ignorant and the bad is rarely productive of benefit. Solitude may be the occasion and the means of beneficial progress to the good. It may enable the repentant to avoid the errors which have injured him and by which he has injured others, and it may enable him to work out his own benefit, doing good to himself, but not communicating it to others. The whirlwind of passion disturbs the solitude, but God and good are not in the disturber. The small still voice of reason and revelation calls him to repentance, but he cannot understand. Like the child Samuel, he hears the call, but until there be some one to instruct him how to respond, he remains in his darkness, unimproved.

But solitary confinement we have said is not recommended by the Society. That species of penalty might be as cruel to the convict as the associated imprisonment is unjust to society. We would have all penalties so tempered with mercy, that they should lead naturally and certainly to improvement. We condemn any sentence to utter solitude, as heartily as we do that to a social imprisonment, whereby pecuniary compensation to the State takes the place of moral improvement in the prisoner, and where day by day former associates in vice become schemers for future depredations and teachers of the means of crime to the neophyte in wrongdoing.



The separate confinement which constitutes the peculiar character of prison discipline advocated by the Society and practised in the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, has reference to the separation of one convict from another, and of separation of the criminal from that intercourse with people from without that might keep up his relation with criminals and his taste and his resolutions for crime. Day by day the lesson of moral instruction is heard. Day by day the visitors from the city present themselves at his cell, and invite him to reformation; and at any stated period, or in case of special emergency, the inmate of the cell may have the attendance of a clergyman of his own choice, and the consolations of religious instruction such as he may have cherished in better times. His solitude is disturbed by the regular visitation of the officers of the prison, and the silence of his cell broken by the prayers and teaching of his visitors. Nor is it a violation of the plan, that he should repeat and amplify what he has heard, and loudly express what he has been brought to feel. This, with all the privations which imprisonment and conviction for extensive crime necessarily include, is not "solitary confinement." The justice which, for the sake of society, restrains the freedom of the offender, yields entirely to the mercy that turns to that offender's temporal and eternal good. This infliction, that separates him from his associates in felony, frees society from apprehension of his crimes.

We speak here of the infliction of the Penitentiary. The case of a convict in the County prison has in it much less of severity, and is proportionately therewith of less benefit to him and less advantageous to society.

We do not intend to argue upon the advantages of separate confinement and labor, over the associated condition of prisoners. That subject has been often presented in our annual reports, and in essays published by the Society, and ably and satisfactorily handled. We shall present some of what may be regarded as the minor objects and labors of the Society, from which, however, great good has already resulted, and to which we must look for many of the direct, personal, and permanent benefits which are to result from our efforts.

It will be seen, in the course of this report, that close observation warrants the conclusion that little hope of improving the moral condition of the prisoner can be indulged until he is placed within the reach of separate instruction, and beyond the evils of companionship with the vicious. This is the experience in this State; this is the growing opinion in Great Britain and Ireland.

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## COUNTY PRISON.

The County Prison presents a vast field for contemplation and labor. It is the receptacle of the vagrant, the drunkard, the disorderly, the suspected, and the convicted. All the elements of crime are found in its cells, and sometimes the unfortunate, the oppressed, and the innocent are made more miserable by a forced association with the vicious and the guilty. Sometimes an accidental association with the bad has procured for the

careless, well-meaning innocent, a companion that has indoctrinated him with vice, and made him a proficient in crime. All degrees of servitude are experienced in this prison, from that which terminates with the twenty-four hours for intoxication, to that which is extended to years for some flagrant violation of the law. Nay, there are those who, in the midst of years, have no hope of escaping from the prison cells till they shall "be carried forth of men," to be buried under the rules of the prison, or by the charity of those who knew them in better days. These last are men convicted of willful murder, by a jury, and sentenced to death, by the Court, but in whose behalf some circumstance suggests a withholding of the death-warrant, and their cases remain from one term of gubernatorial office to another, transmitted by the ruling chief magistrate to his successor, among the matters unfinished, but which seem not to impose upon the new governor the necessity of discharging the painful office which was avoided by his predecessor.

The occupants of the County Prison cells are of the following kind :—

*The First Class.*—Those committed for vagrancy, breach of the peace, drunkenness, and disorderly conduct.

*Second Class.*—Persons charged with violation of the laws, whose cases are to be decided by the Criminal Court.

*Third Class.*—Persons sentenced to short imprisonment, and the payment of fines and costs.

*Fourth Class.*—Those convicted of crimes of a high

character, and sentenced to confinement and labor. And we may add a

*Fifth Class.*—Formed of those already mentioned, who, having been sentenced to death by the Court, are yet detained in prison by the withholding of the death-warrant for their Execution, or of the pardon which would ensure their release.

With all these the Society has relations by means of the Committee on the County Prison, and to prevent interference in labors, and to secure attendance at all the cells, the Committee is divided into classes, to each of which is assigned a particular division of the prison, though a member of the Committee is permitted to visit the inmates of any of the cells, in addition to those specially assigned him. But it can scarcely be doubted that where one visitor is punctual and faithful in his labors, the interference of others may rather tend to disturb the mind of prisoners than to aid them in the new path of duty upon which they have hesitatingly entered. Such matters are, of course, left to the judgment of visitors, who can easily discern when the ground is fully occupied by a successful laborer. Too much culture is said to be almost as fatal to vegetation as entire neglect. Frequency of interference by persons of varied habits and different modes of approaching the prisoner, can scarcely be productive of good, although each one separately operating, might, with God's blessing, work out an incalculable amount of improvement.

The laborers at the County Prison are not so numerous as at the Penitentiary, in proportion to the number and character of the inmates. The County Prison is a less

desirable field of labor. At the Penitentiary the inmates have a fixed and protracted residence, and may be approached by the same teacher so long as hopes are entertained that "the continual dropping" of moral truths "will wear the stone" of his heart. And his separation from those whose language or presence might encourage his resoluteness in wrong intention, leaves him almost entirely within the influence of those whose duty and pleasure it is to make his banishment from bad society the means of his reformation.

At the County Prison, one large class of prisoners, by far the largest, is always changing. Day by day the *vans* arrive, crowded with wretches who have entered upon the path of vice, and are hastening down that terrible declivity. Incarceration for all crimes, commences here, even though the criminal should be consigned to the Penitentiary when convicted. The vicious, the drunkard, the disorderly, the peace-breaker, and the vagrant, are committed to the prison, and must abide their monthly incarceration, unless "sooner released by course of law."

We have already mentioned the various classes of offenders that occupy the cells of this prison. With one class, viz., convicts for various terms, the mode of dealing by the visitors from the city, is changed from that in the Penitentiary only so far as to suit the different character of the confinement, and the occupation of the inmates. The visitor is regular in his calls at the cell of the convict, and follows his own plan of moral and religious instruction, usually successful in proportion to the assiduity of the instructor, and the time in which he exer-

cises his office of benevolence towards the inmates of the cell. Pamphlets, tracts, books of devotion, the Holy Scriptures, are supplied to the prisoner, and his attention to the prescribed lesson is urged by his teacher, and tested by his recitation and comment. And when the unhappy occupant of the cell is unable to read, additional attention is bestowed in imparting the instruction, so as to supply as far as possible the deficiency of primary education.

With the third class, viz., those sentenced to short terms, and the payment of a fine, it may be supposed not so much good can be expected. Yet there are not wanting instances of thorough reform consequent upon the gentle zealousness of the visitor, and the yet lingering sense of right in the mind of the prisoner. Indeed, as some of those suffering short sentences are obtaining the first fruits of wrong doing, it happens often that their consciences and their affections are more easily touched, and thus a hopeful reformation is more readily commenced. This occurs especially when the person arrested is admitted to bail, or, as can rarely happen, placed in a separate cell before conviction, so that a direct and necessary intercourse, by constant association with others in a similar situation may be avoided. The fact that many of these third class prisoners never return, may be regarded as evidence that the discipline of the prison, and the care of the visitors, have done the good work of reformation.

#### EVIL SOCIETIES.

The experience of visitors with some of this class is of a very interesting character. Occasionally are heard, in

the out-break of passion, resolves of the avenging upon the world, the wrong inflicted by the first incarceration. It cannot be denied that these resolves are frequently carried out, and a life is consecrated to crime, in revenge for punishment—and the cell of the prisoner is the first degree in that education which terminates in a full graduation in the State Prison, or on the gallows. Of course, far back of this first imprisonment lies the evil; neglected education; want of parental direction, or the evil influence of pernicious parental example; evil associations at the corners of the street; and especially, and to be particularly noticed, COMPANIONSHIP IN SOCIETIES formed for mischief before the initiates understood the nature and tendencies of their confederacy. The prison and the penitentiary of our city have been made populous by members of these societies, whose object and origin are often emphatically set forth in their abhorrent names. Thousands of lads have thought they were honored in their position by being admitted to fellowship with those who had become a sort of terror in their neighborhood; and others have gratified a pugnacious inclination, by associating with vulgar heroes, who were bound to protect them from assault, and assist in gratifying their malevolence. It is no argument against the evils of these societies that there are in them very few persons of mature age. Alas! the ranks are crowded with those who have the vigor of nascent manhood, without the restraints of a sense of responsibility. Plans of evil, which if proposed to men, even young men, would have been voted down from the danger which the actors would

incur, are adopted with acclamation by grown-up boys; and the quiet of neighborhoods is disturbed, property destroyed, personal safety jeopardized, personal injury inflicted, and sometimes human life wantonly taken.

In this class of prisoners, however, as we have already remarked, are often found the proper objects of the visitors' most hopeful attentions. The young man or young woman, who by the error, we will not say the accident, of bad associates, is arrested for an offence of which he or she is only partly guilty of the act, and innocent of intention, after a few weeks' confinement begins to hear with interest the voice of friendship "breathed through the lattice," and though shocked at a new contact with the innocent, yields soon, not merely attention but confidence, opens up the heart to the friend at the cell door, receives the proffered book, accepts the offer of frequent visitations, and in time, not at once, shows that deep sense of degradation which is the beginning of true repentance. The visitor finds himself depended on, the confidence begets protection, and the punishment for the first offense or for the first detection becomes the means under Providence of permanent amendment.

In this department of the prison the separate system is practised as far as can be done consistent with the plans of employment, and, with regard to the effect of the system, even with the limited advantage which it has in this place, favorable reports are made. One instance is mentioned by a visitor, who is most faithful to the duties he assumes and whose regular labors are almost entirely limited to convicts, and to those of a



particular gallery, so that he may not by diversity of labors, or a multitude of objects, lessen the good effects of his visits or diminish the means of a close intimacy with the minds of those whose good he seeks. He has within a short time received letters from two soldiers in the Army of the Potomac, both of whom had been under his moral dealings in the County Prison at one time, and both were members of the —th regiment, both returned thanks for the valuable instructions and kindness of the visitor, both professed to have derived the most important benefits from his care, yet neither of them knew that they had occupied adjoining cells in the County Prison, and neither of them was acquainted with the fact that the other was addressing their common benefactor. Instances of this kind, if not frequent, do at least occur sufficiently often to strengthen the hopes of the Society that the labors which its visitors perform in the name of benevolence and under the direction of the Association, are fruitful, in individual and social benefit. Fruitful in that good which was contemplated in the formation of the Society.

One other instance of the effect of zealous, affectionate kindness and watchful care in this department may be mentioned. A visitor who has for twenty years been constant in the discharge of his voluntarily assumed duties, found in a cell a lad who had by bad association and repeated crimes deserved and received a sentence for many years imprisonment. He was one of those impressible persons who yield to circumstances and follow out fully the course into which they may have been conducted. Notwithstanding the effect which several

years' bad conduct had produced on the perceptions of the youth, separate confinement had afforded him a means of preparing himself for that species of mental hostility to the world which the young convict is likely to entertain, and when the visitor entered his cell and asked for a statement of the circumstances of his short but miserable career, the voice of affection and the tone of deep, almost of parental interest with which the prisoner was addressed, secured his confidence, and his tale of wrong doing was readily told. In time the unfailing attention of the visitor became almost necessary to the existence of the prisoner, and the prescribed devotion was performed. The Scripture lessons were well studied, and all that could be required of the inmate of the criminal cell seemed to be so well done that the "visitor" felt authorized to second the wishes of the prisoner for Executive clemency. A full pardon was obtained, and in a short time afterwards, the released convict was seen occupying a place of peculiar trust, where his own word was all that could be demanded as a statement of cash received. The many failures and disappointments which pain and mortify the visitors in their labor of love, are not recorded. But such an instance as we have noticed above, will serve as a reward for many years of toil, as compensation for many hundred disappointments, and as encouragement to future exertions, and especially to careful studies as to the best mode of improving the means of usefulness. We are not to forget that the labors of the visitors are low down. In other callings it is a comfort to know that the good have been made better by well sustained efforts. The

mission of the Society's Visitors is to those whom the world deems already lost. To snatch even a few from the many, very many, of those who constitute the class of depraved and criminal, publicly exposed, is a work in which the laborers must find much of their reward in the sense of suffering mitigated, and the feeling of kindness gratified. Their highest boast must be that God has accepted the services for the permanent benefit of even a few.

In making an annual report of the doings of the Society for the Alleviation of the Miseries of Public Prisons, we might be justified in multiplying our statements of favorable results of the labors of the members of the two great Committees. For these are the fruits of all our plans, the result of all our labors. If the great object to many is to secure the adoption of the separate confinement of prisoners, this separate confinement is only to ensure the moral improvement of the individual prisoner. If the Society puts forth its efforts to create and multiply auxiliary institutions, it is only that there may be a greater concurrence of zeal and talents to make our State Penitentiaries and our County Prisons the schools of reform of individual prisoners; and the Society for Ameliorating the condition of Prisons, while it rejoices in the adoption of its views by institutions in other States of the nation, and by governments abroad, rejoices not as having triumphed merely in extending a knowledge of itself, and as having secured an adoption by others of what it deems its peculiar plans, but as having conciliated the prejudice of other benevolent associations, and secured their co-operation in the work of promoting

the good of society, by multiplying the means of improvement of individuals.

We shall have occasion to speak more extensively of of the nature of the labors of the Prison Committee, each one of whom is a "Visitor," when we come to consider the labor in the female department of the County Prison. And that, too, will afford opportunity to notice the operation of the primary judiciary system of the city, and its effects on prisoners and on society.

#### PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Before closing this part of the Report, it is deemed proper, if not indeed a duty, to refer again, and with stronger emphasis, to the evil "associations" of young persons of our city, their immoral combinations, and the evils to which these societies give rise. Lads whose parents are laboring hard all day to procure a scanty support, find themselves without the restraint of domestic authority, and they use their freedom to procure the gratification of wishes which have been formed without domestic discipline or moral restraints. In many of these cases the parents are little better than the children, and the example of intemperance and ill temper at home is easily followed abroad. In some cases the parents, though virtuous, lack the mental ability to correct the evils of bad association in their children, and the foolish son, without any criminal intent or neglect on the part of the parents, becomes a grief to his father and bitterness to her that bore him. There is scarcely to be found a more effective school for vice

at first and crime in succession, than is furnished by one of the clubs of lads with which parts of our city are infested,—infested as much now, though not as obtrusively, as when “nights were made hideous” by the uproar of their juvenile members, and the “day deformed” by the inscription of their titles and deeds upon the fences and house-fronts in the vicinity of their operations. He who would alleviate the miseries of prisons by lessening the number of prisoners, may find object of labor among these most injurious societies.

He who would stay the progress of vice and crime in that direction, must deal first with those parents whose vices or whose negligence of parental duties supply members for the clubs, and candidates for the penitentiary. Parental indifference, total disregard to all the obligations of domestic life, is the cause of such a deterioration in the young of the city,—the young we mean of both sexes; for neglect at home operates as injuriously upon girls as upon boys; and the evidence of the equality of the evil is as conspicuous in the bad associations of the young female as in her miserable brother, and the result may perhaps be far more lamentable to the former, because of the almost impossibility of reclaiming her. If the clubs and associations absorb the boys and prepare them for a guilty manhood, public “parties,” coarse exhibitions, and service at the drinking saloon, at dancing halls and casinos, qualify the girl for the lowest grade of vice. The two sexes have different paths downward to destruction, but in this world those pathways usually terminate in the prison; and the cells at Moyamensing have more than

once, and at one time, contained father, and mother, with their sons and daughters,—terrible illustration of the evils of home vices, and the neglect of parental duties, the forbearance of domestic restraints.

It is not intended to assert that all the vice and errors of children are referable to parental example : that would be a gross injustice to those sorrowing ones who see the stray one from their domestic circle, disgracing in his vicious career the lessons and examples of piety in which he was reared, and forming a marked exception to the character and condition of his relatives. But we have a right to speak plainly where the evidences of neglect and even of bad example in the parents are manifest in the error of the child. We have a right; nay, in the position which this association is now occupying, we have a duty to society, to urge attention to the evils which our community is made to suffer from a neglect of domestic discipline, which crowds the cells of our prison with guilty parents, and fills the House of Refuge with their erring children.

We repeat it, that we distinguish between those cases of parental sorrow which flow from some exceptional cause, and those domestic miseries which are consequent upon vice or criminal neglect; but care must be taken not to weaken a sense of parental responsibility by referring to misfortune, too much that may be referable to vicious error. In this matter, as in others of a different character, perhaps the language of the poet may be painfully applicable :

“ Look into those you call unfortunate,  
And, closer viewed, you'll find they are unwise.”

## STATISTIC.

While on the subject of the County Prison, it may not be amiss to present a few statistics regarding the number of those who have been its inmates during the year 1863. The whole number of commitments was 17,219. The philanthropist who looks at the effect of vice or misfortune on individuals, will be startled at such a statement, when he considers how much private misery and domestic grief there were involved in all these incarcerations; not only in the separation of so many persons from their social and domestic associations, but more than that, often the long career of annoyance to family and friend, from the regular advance in crime and vice which led to the incarceration. One other fact is noticeable, the increase in imprisonment in 1863 over those in 1862 was 2,573. That, it is evident to those who visit the prison and examine into the cause of such painful effects, is, in part, one of the bitter fruits of the present war. And the mortifying fact, that 794 of the increase of committed were females, is evidently referable to the same cause. In 1861 and a part of 1862, the number of commitments of males was greatly decreased, as the army was absorbing with better elements, many of those who were almost monthly successful candidates for the prison, while at the same time, the number of females increased, owing to the absence of those to whom they were responsible, and to the periodical reception of money in larger amounts than they had been accustomed to receive. The return of whole regiments to our city, serves, by supplying only a few vicious from

each, to bring up the number of males without diminishing those of females committed. Yet we must not overlook the fact, that a large portion of those extra commitments are of persons who contrive to make their appearance at the prison in about ten days after having served thirty days in the cells. They are new commitments, but they are old offenders; and they furnish one strong argument, or rather, perhaps, show the necessity for a House of Correction.

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## FEMALE DEPARTMENT.

The Philadelphia County Prison is composed of four different departments, one of which is called the "Debtor's Department," so denominated because it was destined to receive and retain those who were to be incarcerated for not paying their debts. The merciful laws of Pennsylvania have abolished imprisonment for debts by contract, and now the building is used for the detention of some United States prisoners, for some who are adjudged to be in contempt of court, some who are detained on mesne process, &c., or who are sentenced to pay fines or costs. With these and others under the charge of the sheriff, the committee have had little intercourse; their circumstances, or the temporary character of their almost nominal confinement, not rendering it probable that visits would be acceptable or profitable.



The south wing of the prison is devoted entirely to male vagrants, drunkards, breakers of the peace, those who await a trial, and some who are sentenced to short imprisonment and fines. The middle building contains male convicts, sentenced to separate confinement and labor, and also those who have been sentenced to capital punishment. Among the inmates of these two buildings the visitors of the Society are constant and assiduous in their labors, and we have already referred to some of the results of their visitations.

The north building is entirely separate from the other, having two lots of ground and a high wall between that and the male convict department. The northern building is exclusively devoted to females. The vagrant, the drunkard, the accused, and the female criminal of every class, are here kept, under the care of a male keeper, and a matron and assistant matron. And as this department presents a peculiar field for the action of our Society, we shall make special reference to the character of the inmates, the nature of their offences, the circumstances of their committal, and the character and results of labors for their moral and physical improvement; not because these labors are greater or more effective, but because the pursuits, the misfortunes, the errors, and the crimes of the prisoners differ from those of the males, according to the circumstances of their condition and sex, and require some additional means to secure an amelioration of the state of their lives.

In dealing with female offenders, we have to encounter the same incentives, the same passions that influence

the males; and most of the same crimes that are punished in the male convict department are here expiated by the females. But the mode of dealing must vary with the varying circumstances of the prisoner; and those circumstances must greatly depend upon the character of the individual, resulting from her sex and the condition of her earlier life.

It is calculated that more than one thousand females divide their time between the cells of the county prison and the practice of those vices or the committal of those crimes which send them there. For a large number of these, no more than thirty days imprisonment can be given at one time; and many of those thus committed are discharged much sooner: so that there is little time for any moral dealings with them, and even were it practicable to deal with them in exhortation and advice,—were the time of their imprisonment sufficiently long to warrant a hope that they could be persuaded to form good resolves, still the fact that more than one, and often four or five, are found in the same cell, renders almost hopeless any attempt to induce the drunkard to forsake her resort to the bottle, or the impure to avoid the haunts of vice which she has frequented. The evidence of contrition which kindness and faithful dealing on the part of the visitor may call forth from the prisoner, are inducements to her companions in the cell to ridicule the moral teacher, and to laugh the repenting one out of her half-formed resolves. The experienced visitor learns to fix a just estimate upon the tears and promises of those expectants of favors; but the good female visitors who occasionally seek to bring “glad tidings” to the miser-

able offenders of their own sex, usually suffer deep mortification at the disappointment of pleasant hopes, and are compelled to seek their consolation in the consciousness of good intention and perfect fidelity to the object which they profess to serve. The great, almost the only mode of serving the inmates of this part of the prison, is to induce them to enter some of the asylums in the city, and yield themselves to the gentle discipline of institutions founded for the good of those who have lost their self-respect and forfeited the good will of society. And the records of the "House of the Good Shepherd," of "The Magdalen Asylum," "The Rosine" institution, and some other associations for the meliorating the condition of the frail, the vicious, and the guilty, will show what valuable auxiliaries these institutions have been to the Society for Meliorating the Condition of Prisons.

While on this branch, we may as well say that, by an Act of Assembly, the Inspectors of the County Prison may, at their discretion, discharge at once any person committed for vagrancy, drunkenness, and disorderly conduct, or a breach of the peace. Of course, a sound discretion is to be used; and it is within the knowledge of all who are conversant with the administration of the County Prison, that great good has resulted from the exercise of this power by the Inspectors, and incalculable evils have been prevented. Without any effort on the part of this Society, it has happened that more than one of its appointed visitors to the County Prison have been Inspectors; and in the exercise of the power conferred on the latter, the duties of

the former have been most valuably discharged. The condition of many prisoners has been meliorated by a timely inquiry into the cause of their incarceration and the duties that awaited them at home. If it should appear that accidental association had brought a poor innocent girl to the cells, it is a beautiful and profitable exercise of power to send her home before she should make acquaintance with the habitués of the prison, or before a knowledge of her misfortune should become general among her acquaintances, by a notice of her absence from the scene of her ordinary duties. Take one example as illustration of the idea.

A girl about seventeen years of age, well dressed, was seen emerging from the van, that at the prison

“Each morning vomits forth its sneaking crowd”

of police committals. Her neat appearance and unusual sadness arrested the attention of one of the visitors of this Society, who was there on duty as an Inspector. He learned that the girl, going home on a summer evening from work, by which she maintained herself and mother, was annoyed by the appearance and bad language of a drunken woman. The disturbance drew to the place a police officer, who did not see the real offender escape, and finding only the poor girl there, he arrested her, and she was sent down for “disorderly conduct.” Close examination into the case might have shown the mistake, but there were many more cases, and so the poor girl took her place among a crowd of miserable wretches of her own sex. Her story was found to be true, and she was at once dismissed.

It is not worth while to dwell on the importance to that girl, and her mother dependent upon her labor, of the prompt release. Since that time, the arrival of the van has been watched, and the appearance of its inmates carefully noticed, and other cases have presented themselves for the prompt and valuable exercise of the power entrusted to the Inspectors.

But it is not alone the entirely innocent that receive the attention of the Inspectors. Inquiries are made into the circumstances of the poor inebriate, of the temptations that beset her, of the chance of finding some employment abroad; and the promise of amendment is rather taken than depended on, and a discharge is granted. It often happens that the promise is kept much longer than was supposed probable, and thus so much time is redeemed from the waste of vice and crime. The repetition made the actor, at least, no worse than a continuance in idleness would have made her. If she had been detained for thirty days, she would probably have found no employment, and a return to vice would have been almost the certain result.

And on that point it may not be improper to make a remark. A large part of the poor females who are habituated to the prison, depend less on regular engagements in the houses of their employers, than on demands upon their time and labor in seasons of emergency,—such as house cleaning in the city, or garden work in the country. It often happens that in the midst of the demand for these women, they are in the cells of the prison for “vagrancy,” “disorderly conduct,” or “breach of the peace.” If they can be released, they may earn

something, in the spring, summer and autumn, to support them in the winter; or at worst, they are supported while they are at work. If they are detained during the demand, they lose the present and the future employment and its remuneration, and leave the prison, when their thirty days shall have expired, with no expectation of immediate engagement; and they return to the prison by the way of the haunts of vice, from which labor would have saved them, temporarily at least.

It is in such cases that the exercise of the power to release on the part of the Inspector becomes greatly useful to the community and to the prisoner; and certainly it is eminently in furtherance of the plans and wishes of this Society. It may be added, that numerous instances might be cited of the entire reformation of females by their timely discharge from prison when there existed a demand for their labor.

In this department of the prison is found the best illustration of the vast difference of the influences upon the minds and character of the prisoners wrought by the separate and the social system of incarceration. It is true that all convicts are or ought to be separately confined; but a very large proportion of the female prisoners here are awaiting trial, or held for some offence below felony, in such numbers as to render it quite impossible, even with all the discharges granted by the Inspectors and procured by the Agent, to limit the number of that class of prisoners to less than from two to four in many of the cells. Here, then, side by side, or in close vicinity, is found an example of the social

and the separate systems, and to some extent a judgment is easily formed of the effect of the two modes. In the cell where are more than one female, (we speak of females, because, accidentally, our means of information, as it regards the condition of that sex, in prison, are more ample than they are concerning the males, though the circumstances being the same, the effect of similar treatment would be different only in proportion to the constitutional difference of the sexes—the female being much more social, and much more ductile and impressible, and thus more easily influenced by her associates,)—in these cells monitions and advice are offered by the visitors, and for a moment there seems, beneath the respectful attention of one or two, a kind of resolve to try to do better,—books and tracts are accepted, and perhaps read, and there is a promise, which to the unexperienced visitor seems well founded, that the miserable object of his or her care will seek to amend a course that leads so directly to disgrace and misery. But scarcely does the visitor leave the door of the cell, when the deluge of ridicule poured out by the companions of the “promising” offender, obliterates all sense of compunction, and all resolve of amendment, if any were formed, and virtue and decency are coarsely ridiculed, and their humble advocate laughed at as an easy dupe. But the visitor to the cell of the convict, or the prisoner separately confined, has easy access to the feelings of the inmate, and the lesson given is allowed time to have some favorable effect. The resolution for good which the unhappy woman forms upon the evidence of unwonted interest in her fate, may not

be permanent,—the feelings may have acted rather than the judgment,—but the repetition of the visit and of the lesson scarcely fail to beget that sense of wrongdoing which is the parent of repentance; and especially, if the visitor makes evident a deep feeling of affection, and gentle sympathy in the character and condition of the prisoner as a human being, may there be hope that good will follow. There must be heat applied, before the iron can be wrought into useful shape.

It is not to be supposed that all who seem to maintain to the last day of their imprisonment their resolve to amend their lives, do indeed carry into effect that resolve beyond the prison wall. That would be too great a harvest to hope for. When the resolution is taken, the pain of punishment is felt, the sense of confinement is keen, and the view of personal degradation in presence of a virtuous teacher is mortifying; and the force of former habits forgotten, and the attractions of vice underrated, and especially the sense of shame among those who knew them, not calculated on, they go forth in the resolution of amendment—they meet the suspicions of the good and the imitation of the bad—and they allow passion to triumph over virtue.

“The bow well bent and sharp the spring,  
Vice seems already slain;  
When passion rudely snaps the string,  
And it revives again.”

But discouraging as such cases are, and especially in their frequency, there are many cases where the convict, after having promised, in the crowded cells of the vicious



and accused, to mend her life, and then returned to vice and crime at the suggestions of her vicious companions, has been led by the gentle invitation of the faithful visitor to resolve on good, and where the solitude of her confinement has led to that reflection which gives permanency to her resolution. And, it may be added, that it is probable that of the many failures of success which are to be deplored, some are due to the want of entire separation of the convict, consequent upon the form and location of the cells, that forbid entire seclusion, at least render unfruitful all attempts to prevent the occupants of neighboring cells from holding conversation with each other by message, viva voce, or some conventional signal or sounds. Marvelously ingenious are the contrivances and the resorts of the human mind when an exclusion from outward objects assists in the concentration of faculties upon some desired end. It may be added here, that almost all the success that attends the efforts of the philanthropist to reform females in the County Prison, is due to separate confinement; and even when the inmate is "sent down" only for drunkenness and disorderly conduct, judgment, founded on her appearance and manner, has been well exercised in placing her either in a separate cell, or if that be not possible, then in selecting her a companion, and thus bringing her within the genial action of visitors of her own sex, without the danger from subsequent ridicule of her cell-mates. In this relation, too, has proved highly beneficial, the habit noted elsewhere, of meeting the van as it reached the prison, and selecting at once those who are new to the place, and, after inquiry, if not dismissing

them to their family, at least placing them apart from the more abandoned of their sex.

Before closing this division of the Report, it may not be amiss, even though it be a partial repetition, to notice that the visitors to the two prisons in this city agree, as it is elsewhere stated in this Report, that all other things being equal, the hopes of successful dealing with a prisoner rest much upon the length of his sentence, and the completeness of his separation from all intercourse with other prisoners. Hence the little hopes expressed of favorable results from advice and persuasive dealing with the inmates of the vagrant and drunkard's cell, whose imprisonment does not extend beyond thirty-one days. We may remark that usually the convict is less a victim of vice than of crime; and he generally has more mind upon which to operate by argument, though, perhaps, he may have less conscience to be affected; and this applies especially to men, who, as convicts, seem by a strange law of society, to be exempted from censure for their vices, while the female convict is made responsible, not only for the crime for which she suffers, but for all the vices that are incident to an erring female. But it seems almost certain that if the vicious female should be made the inmate of a separate cell, and be the object of the gentle attention, and persuasive argument of moral visitors for as long a time as is the criminal female, she would be as likely to yield to those moral allurements as is the convict. To produce the means of alleviating misery, we must have a change in prison economy; we can, perhaps, scarcely hope for success till the House of Correction supplies the means.

## MORAL INSTRUCTION.

Every effort made by the Society, in its attempt to alleviate the miseries of public prisons, is intended to be in a moral direction ; and whether the person in whose behalf the agent or representative of the Society labors, is to be the tenant of a cell for years, or to be immediately released, it is to the moral perceptions that addresses are made, and it is the moral condition that is the object of public and private labor ; it is for the moral improvement that the physical condition is regarded, and what may appear to the careless or indifferent observer as merely an exercise of philanthropic feeling, or of a humane sentiment, has for its great end such a disposition of the offender, or the accused, as will secure to him the means and condition of moral improvement, making the cell endurable to the felon by a growing appreciation of the justice that placed him there, and a sense of the benefit of reflection upon the past, and the comprehension of the advantage of resolves for good, which, by kind monition and gentle persuasion he is induced to adopt. The moral image defaced by vice, or buried beneath the accumulation of crime, begins to assume its earlier charms, begins to move under its superincumbent mass, and, with a recognition of its proprieties and value, vice and crime not only lose attraction, but become hideous and repulsive ; the spirit of hostility to the world is gradually weakened, and a lively sensibility to all the duties of social life takes the place of that wretched resolve to misapply power by felonious appropriation, and

indulge passion in the violation of the laws of decency and morals.

Or, if the prisoner is to leave his cell, the efforts are to fix in his heart the great principle of moral excellence, and to strengthen the resolutions which he formed while in prison. To follow, indeed, the liberated man to his home, if he have any, or failing that, to provide him with temporary shelter and employment, and to watch over his conduct, and guide and guard him amid the temptations upon which he has entered with delicate susceptibilities and wounded self-respect. Resolves formed in the solitude of cells, are like roots that vegetate in darkness, they are certain not to be very fruitful in their secluded condition, and are exceedingly liable to perish unproductive when exposed to the light.

Care, watchfulness, kindness, and condescension on the part of those who would perfect their work of good, are absolutely necessary to that reformation in the prisoner, which is to make him a useful citizen, and restore him to the confidence and respect of associates. It is not permitted here to give instances of the beneficial exercise of this species of practical, long-enduring kindness, lest the sensibilities of the benefactor should be wounded, and the beneficiary find his condition and circumstances injured by unnecessary publicity. But instances are not wanting of the recent criminal occupant of a felon's cell, returning to his moral teacher to give thanks, to present the fruits of his amendment, and, while asking additional advice, to solicit continued interest in the future.

The cheerful, kind reception of the young penitent by

his friend and guide, seemed to seal the work of reformation; and if he who had been justly charged with, and severely punished for, repeated felonies, felt the healing influence of Christian forbearance, and the long exercise of reforming efforts on the part of the moral instructor, who shall tell the effect upon the repentant's future interests, upon his associates, and upon the business men of the world, with whom he must mingle, of the freedom of his access to the house of his benefactor, the cordiality of his reception and entertainment, and kindness and good wishes with which he publicly takes leave of him at the open door.

This kind of conduct is that "*coup d'épaule*" which denotes true dignity and greatness in the bestower, and which confers upon the recipient the freedom of virtuous society, and the power to become a useful member in a good community.

Though the publication of many striking instances of reformation that illustrate the effect of direct personal dealing with the prisoner has been forborne, lest the peculiarity of the cases should too directly point to the individual, and injure his prospects of success, yet one or two are given, that all, and especially prisoners, may comprehend the "possibility of reform," even to the very vicious and guilty. It is believed that the offender, much more frequently than is supposed, contemplates in his cell the duties and work of reformation, while the discharge of that duty, and the commencement of that work are postponed, from the inability to see how the censure or suspicions of society are to be surmounted, or how, amid those censures and suspicions, so repulsive in

their operation, he is to avoid the snares of former associates, and the temptations of former pursuits. The possibility of amendment, the practicability of virtuous resolves must be made apparent by judicious counsel and imitable example.

The effect of the moral improvement on the repentant prisoner, is soon manifested in the improvement of his physical, social, and fiscal condition. The confidence and favor of those who have promoted the change is communicated to others, and amendment of life is productive at once of an amendment of the means of living. The man of business pursuits is as anxious to procure the service of the honest and the able, as the honest and able are to obtain the patronage of active men.

With these great means of moral improvement, and, doubtless, with an eye to the temporal as well as the eternal consequences, the Society has always had in view the means of making prisoners better as well as more comfortable, of ameliorating the miseries of prisoners as well as prisons; and hence it has required action on the part of its visitors, and a regular report of what they have done, and generally how they have labored.

In dealing with the question of reformation among those who occupy the cells of the County Prison, it will be readily conceived that there are not only a variety of minds to deal with, but a great difference in the elements of character. Something must be attempted for those whose degradation is so great, that they hardly discover in their condition more cause for shame than does the unfortunate speculator who has failed in his plan of wealth. These miserable wretches seem to have no

taste beyond the lowest dens of infamy, and no ambition but to gratify that taste in its utmost depravity. And there is a demand, too, for services among a few who seem to have few tastes for what are called low vices, and to have based their calculations of success on efforts that involve the higher degree of felony. The higher offences are in many instances rather the result of vicious habits than the resort of those who aim at the property of the industrious and the wealthy. Every one of these offenders against the law is within the scope of this Society, and his moral condition is in some degree provided for.

It has already been mentioned that the Society sends to both the Penitentiary and the County Prison, a Committee, whose business it is not only to note whatever in the administration of the institutions may have a bearing on the moral and physical condition of the prisoner, but also to be themselves missionaries to the inmates of the cell, moral and religious teachers of those who have failed in both. In addition to the labor of these committeemen, there is at the Penitentiary a regular moral teacher, (occupying what in some other institutions is called the chaplaincy,) but fulfilling other requirements, and making acceptable his more formal and general teaching by his frequent special and personal communication with individuals.

At the County Prison, the Agent of the Society, who is also the Agent of the Board of Inspectors, procures the services of a clergyman for religious general instruction, by preaching and prayer on the first day of the week. It may be added, also, that not unfrequently ladies and

gentlemen, who belong to the choirs of some of the city churches, lend their musical aid, and give additional attraction to the religious services.

But it will be readily comprehended that as the prisoners remain in their cells during the whole of the religious exercises, they are not so likely to be influenced by the teaching and exhortation, as if they were assembled in chapel for social worship, and sat within sight, as well as within sound, of the preacher. The difficulty in this matter with a large portion of the occupants of the cells, especially when low vices rather than considerable crime have placed them there, is to get them to give attention to the speaker, whom they cannot see.

They, too generally, use the occasion of religious exercise for sleep or conversation; and the administering of discipline is, perhaps, more frequently called for, in consequence of mal-conduct during "Divine service," than at any other time. As bringing the preachers face to face with his audience is impossible under the arrangement of the prison, and would be a departure from the plan of separate confinement, it follows, of course, that it cannot be resorted to as a remedy for the indifference to, and neglect of, the public teachings of the officiating clergyman.

In the Parliamentary Reports, partial abstracts of which are given under the head of "Correspondence," in this report it is mentioned that the prisoners are brought into chapel without being able to recognize each other in their ingress or egress, and placed in separate stalls, so arranged, that while they can see and be seen by the clergymen, they cannot see each other. The .



prisoners while conducted to and from their respective cells, have their faces covered with a species of mask, which, being perforated, enables each to see and breathe, but not to recognize any other masked person. Whether this is a better system than is practised in our County Prison and Penitentiary, we are unable to say, but it supposes a chapel or chapels for several denominations, with a large number of stalls. The plan could be practised only with much inconvenience to the officers of the prison, and the object of the non-recognition among the prisoners must at least be endangered. Separate confinement and separate instruction, seem the safest.

The Society has received the aid of members of a female associations, whose wish to be useful have taken them to the cells of prisons, and whose devotion have placed them in immediate conference with the erring and miserable of their own sex; and great good has resulted from their labors. It is a beautiful testimony to the devotion of these females, that while generally connected with some religious denomination, and, of course, attached to their own creed and practices, they have limited their labors to the inculcation of great moral precepts that rest on revelation, and secured much success from a gentle and affectionate enforcement of their teaching, leaving the object of their efforts more in love with the theory of virtue, if not fully resolved to enter upon its practice.

This is undoubtedly the true course for those who resolve to be useful to all who will listen to them. But those who know the well-springs of affection in the human heart, know how often they are called into exer-

cise by some incident that seems aside from the general or the ordinary mode of procedure ; nor should those who look for improvement in the prison cells, overlook a great element of success found in the early attachment to the creed in which the prisoner was reared, and for which he possesses that kind of affection which is offended by the least impeachment of its efficacy, though his own life and present condition show how utterly inoperative for good it has been on him. Those persons are not Atheists or Deists in theory, only in practice. They recognize their obligation to their creed and their early instruction, and they mean at some future time to do better ; but now they sin against their own knowledge.

They know the right, and they approve it, too ;  
They know the wrong, and yet the wrong pursue.

As to these persons, and especially in the female department, nothing could startle them more than an imputation upon their *belief*, nothing offend them more than an attack upon their creed ; and suspecting that their delinquencies in practice will be imputed to the deficiency of the doctrine in which they have been reared, they stand often on the defensive ; occasionally, indeed, they seem ready to take the offensive against those whom they believe to be of another form of worship. This all may be wrong ; it may be ridiculous, but nevertheless it *is* ; and with those who seek to do them a good, and reclaim them from vice to virtue, it must be respected, so far as not to offend it by any evidence of hostility to aught but sin and vice. The confidence of the prisoner must first be secured, and this not always by the same means, that his improvement is to be

effected ; and few circumstances so soon open up the heart as a similarity of creed, and an evidence of belief that that creed is not answerable for the vices or crimes of those who rather hold it in abeyance than in practice. And in that view of the case, and of the wants of the prisoner, some of the Committee having been specially assigned to the female department of the County Prison, have solicited or accepted the offered services of educated and pious females of diverse religious denominations, and opened to them, by authority from the proper officers, the doors of all the cells, so that each may have access to every inmate, and deal with her mind and conscience in the way which shall seem best adapted to the peculiar case.

It is not expected, as certainly it is not desired, that these devoted women should attempt to proselyte the prisoners, looking rather to a change of creed than a change of conduct ; or rather, to speak more charitably, seeking a reformation of conduct only through a change of creed ; but it is, of course, supposed, that each will deal with the object of her care in the way in which her conscience shall sanction, and that advantage will be taken of a similarity of creed to enforce a renewed recognition of doctrine in which the offender was reared, and a resort to the means which, having been enforced and adopted in childhood, are easily comprehended and readily practised, and bring with them the reminiscence of the better days of home and early piety, while they give a stronger hope of future prosperity and happiness.

The stranger visiting the County Prison, has been gratified with the free ingress of these female missionaries,

and has been forcibly struck with the harmonious, though not associated, action of women whose peculiarity of dress shows them to be of religious connection variant in creed and ceremony, but whose concurrent *general* instruction shows them to be trying to serve one Master in the way which their consciences suggested and approved, and which is warranted by the example of that Master, who "went about doing good," and who showed the duty of that conduct when he said, "I was in prison and ye came unto me."

However beneficial may be the regular service of the clergy on the Sabbath, it will, it is believed, be admitted by all, that those who have the ear of the separated prisoner, who know the peculiarities of his case, and the proclivity of his inclinations, have a great opportunity of touching his affections, of making an impression on his mind, and rousing him to good resolves, when the dealing is separate and special, and the poor wanderer feels that every word that is uttered is directed to his own conscience, and every hope that is offered is founded on amendments that are peculiar to his own condition. This separate dealing is, in almost all cases of sin, of vice and crime, that which a friend would desire to exercise; it is that which the sinner, the vicious, or the criminal, would acknowledge the most efficacious, because less offensive to his self-love, and because it can be so specially adapted, as to meet every point of his own case, so as to leave no avenue for mental escape, and satisfy him that nothing less than entire reformation of resolves and conduct will save him from the augmentation of that punishment which he is now

suffering, and which will cut him off from the sympathies as well as the intercourse of his fellow-beings.

It is scarcely possible to say too much of this mode of separate instruction and exhortation,—this mode of softening the heart and moulding it to good,—the simple means of acquiring the confidence of the prisoner, and then leading him out of his miserable condition, to the commencement of that course which in a long run is to lead to the establishment of virtuous principles; but it is desirable that more could be justly said of the number of those who give themselves to this holy service. The number is small,—quite too small for the number of those who need those aids to virtue of which we have spoken; and especially is there a deficiency in the variety of religious views of the visitors. Not that it is desirable that distinctive doctrines should be enforced; but it is desirable, as has been stated above, that the attachment to creed,—almost as strong in the vicious as in the good,—should be respected as a means of confidence at least. Few virtuous, few pious persons of enlarged christian philanthropy consider the attachment or hostility of certain persons to certain creeds in which they have been reared, or which they have been taught to hold. Zealous attachment to creed survives all practices of virtue, all ground of self-respect, and is apparently, and perhaps naturally, more rampant in those who have no sense of the virtue which the creed enforces, than in those who understand the character of the creed, and the rights of others who do not profess it. And it is worthy of remark, that some of the most violent personal contests of which the Vagrant

cells of the County Prison have been the arena, have been caused by the opposite *religious* creeds in which the miserable occupants had been born, and in which they had been reared; and thus the broken forms of christian doctrine would be avenged in the receptacle of vice, and by the vicious, with all kinds of blasphemy and personal violence, and the religion of peace and purity be enforced with broken heads and broken commandments.

This strong case (entirely real) is presented to illustrate the idea that almost all hope of doing good to the class of persons to whom reference is made, must rest upon efforts that are put forth in some regard to the prejudices which are manifested by those whose benefit is sought.

To produce the ends proposed by the means which we recommend,—namely, an arousing of the conscience by gentle appeals to the hidden affections, by those whose circumstances qualify them to gain access to the confidence of the moral patients,—we must have many devoted visitors, willing to labor beyond the sight and without the applause of the world; and they, when properly vouched for in all requisite qualifications, must have free access to those whom they would aid. It is known that this Society has, by the laws of the Commonwealth, a sort of special privilege to visit in prison, by its members, the miserable, the wretched, the vicious and the criminal, to breathe through the gratings of the cell words of admonition, comfort and hope, or to open the door and participate in the confinement of the prisoner, and address him in accents that may, in the

silence of all around him, awaken him to holy resolves. But even this privilege, greatly used, and, as we believe, never abused, is imperfect without a concurrent action on the part of those who directly administer the affairs of the prison. If they oppose obstacles to free access to the incarcerated, no assertion or proof of right will make the path easy, or often trod by those who represent us, especially the females; it will be found to add the disgust of contention with keepers, to the inconvenience of visits to the guarded. And still less effective will be any efforts by christian philanthropists to alleviate the misery of the cells, and improve the minds of the occupants, if their visits of mercy are followed by the coarse jeers of the unrefined and unsympathizing, ridiculing the efforts of the self-sacrificing visitor, and shaming the half-resolved prisoner; nor would it be better, if the regular official should, from bigotry or bad design, denounce the teaching of the voluntary visitor, because it might tend to other creeds than his own, or because it proceeded from other sources and in other channels than that by which his creed was formed, or those in which his conscience directed. It will be readily understood how potent such disturbing causes would be in producing injurious effects,—in marring, indeed, the good work of the moral teachers in our prisons. It seems therefore meet to say here, that while it is supposed that those who are entrusted with the care of the prisoner, in both Penitentiary and County Prison, have some well-established views of doctrine, and are connected with some religious denomination, it is not

known that any of them have attempted to interrupt the work of the committee and agents of the Society, by hindering the access to prisoners, or by disturbing with contrary teaching the effect produced. On the contrary, it seems a duty at this time and in this place to bear testimony to the unfailing urbanity with which our visitors are received and treated at the prisons, and the aid always rendered to give them ready access to the cells and to the minds of the incarcerated. In the County Prison, where such a variety is presented, and so much care is required, and so much time demanded by the frequent changes, no occupation of the employees, male or female, ever opposes an obstacle to the visit of those who come to help the helpless and improve the bad. No variety of creed induces a diminution of that courtesy which is the true exponent of benevolence; and in this respect the superintendent, keeper, clerk and matrons may be regarded as official assistants in the work of alleviating the miseries of the prisons which they are bound to regulate.

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## AGENT.

The Society continues to have the benefit of the labors of WILLIAM J. MULLIN, who for so many years has filled the place of "Agent" at the County Prison. His services are important to the Society, in the amelioration



of the condition of a vast number of men, women, and even children, whom he finds in the cells of the prison, victims of the errors of public officers, of their own follies, of the vindictive feelings of unkind neighbors, of their own inordinate love of litigation, or their own or their parents' crimes. He is not called to look to the cases of those who may be released by the Inspectors. His labors are with the prosecutors, the aldermen, the district attorney, and the court; and those labors resulted in the release of one thousand four hundred and ninety-one persons during the year 1863. These releases, of course, were all effected with the consent of some established authority. And it may be added, that of the whole number released, *forty-three* were children.

The amount of domestic misery consequent upon the arrest and incarceration of the 1491 persons is almost inappreciable. The injustice corrected by the successful interference must have been immense, and the pleasure brought to a suffering family by the restoration of parent or child to approved innocence, and the duties and comforts of home, must have been truly great.

But we are not to consider all these 1491 persons entirely innocent of the charges brought against them. The magistrate had the commitment supported by the oath of some complainant, and the complainant himself was undoubtedly often justified by the conduct of the prisoner. The blow for which assault and battery was charged, was probably given, and the fruit or toy whose loss led to the imprisonment for larceny, was taken by the accused. The pane of glass in the tavern window

was probably broken by the intoxicated creature who was charged with "malicious mischief." Nor, under these and similar circumstances, are we always to censure the magistrate for taking the oath of a citizen. He commits to prison, or holds to bail for trial, those who stand accused of the violation of private rights. The offender knew, before he entered upon his offensive conduct, that he was about to do wrong. But probably he did not understand the extent of that wrong, and especially was he ignorant of the extent of the penalty which he was about to incur.

We all know the axiom of criminal law, that "ignorance of the law excuseth no man;" but we all know, also, that the axiom is not of equal force in moral law; and the administration of criminal law itself has practical exceptions to the rule. We have already said that a large number of cases sent to court might easily be settled by the parties, but especially by the interference of the magistrate; and we may add, that more than two-thirds of the cases in which the magistrate holds, or commits the prisoners for trial, could, before reaching the prosecuting attorney, be settled, with benefit to the community and the offender. The requirements of the law are seen and felt by the accused before he finds himself committed. The vengeance of the law would do little towards reforming one who already sees his fault, and is ready, as far as possible, to make reparation. In such cases the interference of the Agent has been found most beneficial, not merely in procuring the discharge of the innocent, separating him from the association of untried vagabonds and thieves, and sending

him back to his family and business, to work out and work off the stain which even *false* imprisonment has set upon his character. But greatly advantageous has been that interference in behalf of the guilty, of him who had actually committed the act charged, but who felt the danger of his position as well as the error or turpitude of his conduct, and who needed only to be saved from the actual verdict of the jury and the sentence of the court, to become a candidate again for public confidence and general respect. To all visitors of prisons it is known that hundreds, who commit a violation of the criminal law, never feel the degradation of their act, or submit their minds to its disgraceful consequences, till they are made companions of culprits in the prison cells,—that to be known to the good as having done a notable wrong, is a mortifying means for repentance and amendment; while to be in companionship with the admitted bad, is to be almost certainly sealed to future infamy. This strong but correct view of the cases of new offenders, is that upon which the Agent has based his action; and it is not only due to him, but to the plans and labors of the Society, to say, that while it is probable that some of those whom he, with much labor, has released from prison, have shown that they did not improve by his beneficent efforts, it is most true that by far the largest portion have shown by their subsequent conduct that they appreciate the benevolence that interposed in their behalf, and were ready to make the only compensation which is acceptable to their benefactor, viz., an amended life.

It is dangerous—it is at least wrong—to make a low

estimate of the labors that take a human being from the cells of a prison, when his character is such as to lead to a belief that he will do no wrong, by example, to society, nor sink in the scale of morals. It is wrong to say that the verdict of a jury fully acquits a man, restores him at once and entirely to society, and wipes away the stain which a prison cell has imparted. Thousands hear of the charge who never know of the acquittal,—thousands recollect the man as the inmate of a prison, who have no remembrance of the full cause of his release. The adverse statement of the press, as it regards the act, or the adverse testimony on the trial, lives in the minds of many who do not know, or scarcely would care, about all that was said in behalf of the accused to induce a complete acquittal.

We know the power of conscious innocence; but we know also the effect of conscious disgrace. A man who has been imprisoned long, on a criminal charge, may, in his chamber, or in his family, feel the peace of a “conscience void of offence;” but, abroad in the world, he will feel himself continually on the defensive,—always anxious to show that he is still worthy of the confidence he seeks,—always fearful that some act or word of his, unnoticeable in others, may be construed as consistent with charges which he has publicly disproved; and he feels that the months or weeks of imprisonment which he has suffered, are not to be redeemed by a whole life of liberty and honorable conduct.

There is something in the atmosphere of a criminal prison which seems never to forsake the liberated prisoner: he feels its influence, and suspects all to be

guarding against its infection. In his imagination, the deadly mephitic air is always about him. A reflection of innocence, or a sense of repentance and full reparation, may appease the conscience, but they will not take away the remembrance of the incarceration; and it is to be feared that such painful reflections have, when acting upon a morbid sensibility, led to suicide, or to a return to crime. To diminish the evil, to lessen the effect of guilt, to save self-respect, and restore man to the duties and enjoyments of society, are the objects of the labors of the Agent, when he interferes to save even the offender from such a punishment as shall operate upon him beyond the demands of the law, and, reaching even over the culprit, shall bring misery and disgrace and ruin upon his dependent family.

It is in this light the services of the Agent are to be regarded. He releases hundreds of innocent persons, every year. He restores to family and friends those who have been detained for insignificant offences. He calls from the cells of the prison such as may have done acts that would have lead to a criminal life, and he gives them their freedom before association with the bad has weakened their moral perception,—before they can have formed resolutions to revenge upon society the offence of their incarceration. He assists to save the convict from a return to the haunts of vice, and the associations that led to his crime and his protracted imprisonment, and, supplying trifling sums, and aiding in the application of funds furnished to him, he has seen the prisoner leave the cell which he had occupied for more than a year, and return to a distant family, to

commence a life of improvement, and become a useful member of the community in which he was reared ; and it may be added that, in one instance, at least, while the care of the Agent, in connection with an Inspector, saved the released female from fulfilling an engagement of crime which she had rashly formed, it placed her in the bosom of a family that received her as a child, and made her feel all the comforts and confidence of home which can be felt by the repentant and the forgiven.

The immense saving to the city and county, resulting from the efficient labors of the Agent, by which is saved the cost of maintenance in prison, and of trial and acquittal in court, is worthy the consideration of the taxpayer, and is appreciated by the Inspectors of the prison, who administer the moneys appropriated to the maintenance of the imprisoned. This Society is specially concerned in the moral and physical results of the labors of the Agent, and feel that the objects proposed in the formation of the Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Prisons, have been greatly promoted by the successful labors which they authorize and which they approve.

The Agent of the Society for the County Prison makes a monthly report of his labors, and his small expenditures for clothing furnished to the outgoing prisoner, and for his fare to some other place. These reports show the constancy and the value of his labors in the right direction. We have already mentioned the number of the releases secured by his efforts. We may, perhaps, appropriately repeat here a remark elsewhere made, that the services of the Agent are not required with prisoners whom the Inspectors are by law compe-

tent to discharge,—such as are committed for drunkenness, disorderly conduct, vagrancy, breach of the peace, and such offences; but to cases that require the intervention of the magistrates or the courts to release the accused, the interference of the Agent is directed. Among the many cases which he has reported to the Society, we select a few which serve to illustrate the character of his labors, and their influence in alleviating the miseries of prisons, and serving the cause of the unfortunate innocent, whose errors may have led them into questionable situations, or whose poverty may have placed them in bad company or adverse circumstances.

*Case First.*—A woman was incarcerated upon the charge of the larceny of two fifty dollar notes, of which she was innocent. Her imprisonment was very unjust. She was taken from her home, with her little infant in her arms, and committed to the prison, and separated from her three other children. The Agent ascertained on inquiry that the prosecutor had accused three other persons at different times for taking the money that the prisoner was accused of taking. When the Agent informed the “Court and District Attorney” of these facts, her case was ignored, and she was released from prison, there not being a particle of evidence against her aside from the misrepresentation made by the prosecutor.

It is scarcely necessary to comment on this case, for though the justice of the movement is sustained by the judicial officers of the court, we have few of the facts which gave poignancy to the innocent sufferer.

*Case Second.*—Was that of a husband and his wife, imprisoned for the larceny of an old three-prong table fork, of little or no value, which he found in a pile of ashes in the street. He took, cleaned

and repaired it, and put a particular mark upon it, such as he had upon all his tools in his workshop, he being said to be a respectable mechanic. He then gave it to his wife for the use of his family, and for *this they* were both arrested and imprisoned, on the oath of a quarrelsome neighbor, who testified that it was her fork, and she knew it by the mark upon it; which the prisoner said could not be the case, as it was he that put *this* the only mark upon it. It was certain that they both could not have stolen the fork, although each of them was committed to prison for the same offence. They were respectable looking people, who had never been in prison before. The woman was in great distress of mind, and on the eve of her confinement. They resided in "Columbia Avenue," the extreme northern part of the city, and were sued before a magistrate in the extreme southern part of the city. This circumstance indicated a malicious feeling on the part of the prosecutor, and particularly so in causing the mother to be separated from her infant child that had been left at home uncared for, as the officer would not allow her to return home and take her child to prison with her. And this was mainly the cause of her mental suffering that was so apparent to all who saw her. The Agent deeply sympathized with them in their unfortunate condition, and went to the magistrate and immediately procured their unconditional discharge, all of which had been done within an hour after the Agent's attention was called to the case. They were then released and permitted to return to their home, as it did not appear that they were in any way guilty of the charge brought against them.

*Case Third.*—Two young soldiers that were from the State of Maine. One of them was of a family of the highest respectability; they were accused of stealing a silver watch valued at \$18, for which offence they were committed to prison. When the parents of one heard of the imprisonment of their son, they addressed a note to the Warden of our Prison expressing their surprise at his imprisonment. They stated that they had never known him to do anything wrong, but to the contrary he had always conducted himself in such a way as to command the respect of all who knew him. They wished to know whether it was necessary to send on money to employ counsel to defend him. This letter was handed to the Agent, who made himself



thoroughly acquainted with their case, and who believed they were innocent. The letter was answered, and the parents were informed by the Agent that he believed their son was innocent of the charge that he was accused of, and the case would be attended to free of charge, and that it was not necessary to send any money. It was not long after this that the Agent succeeded in ascertaining that these young men were entirely innocent of the charge they were accused of, and so far from having stolen anything, they had been robbed by their prosecutor. After having been induced to drink *liquor* that was drugged, they became intoxicated, and were taken out under the cover of night and laid at the door of the adjoining house. The very party that robbed them, went to a magistrate and made oath that they had stolen a silver watch of the value of \$18 from him; for which offence they were committed. They had been engaged in one of the late battles, and both of them were wounded and sent to the Chestnut Hill Hospital, where they had *partially recovered* from their wounds, and as they were *convalescent*, permission was granted them to visit the city, where they got into the difficulty. The Agent succeeded in ascertaining from one of the *inmates* of the tavern where the occurrence took place, that the young men were entirely *innocent* of stealing the watch, and that the prosecutor had actually *offered to sell* the watch the next day after they were imprisoned. Soon as this fact was discovered, the Agent got a *return* of the case from the magistrate, took it into Court, and informed the *District Attorney* of all the facts in the case; the prosecutor was sent for, but was nowhere to be found, as he had *suddenly disappeared* and left for New York, he having become *alarmed* at the Agent's interference in the case. Their case was laid before the Grand Jury and ignored, and they were released from prison and permitted to return to their hospital where they could have their wounds properly attended to. The Agent then addressed a letter to the anxious parents of the one that their son's innocence was fully established, and that he was *honorably discharged* by the Court. This intelligence was no doubt gratifying to them.

If this third case is well considered, it will present an instance of the value of the services of the Agent,

and consequently of the value of the Society, which must be gratifying to every friend of humanity. It seems almost impossible to free our large cities from the haunts of the vicious into which these young men had been enticed, and while they exist it seems certain that crime will not only abound, but progress, not merely in amount but in impunity. The feelings of those interested in the welfare and character of these young men, may be imagined when they learn of their release from prison and their full acquittal of the charge of felony. The course of vice had indeed been entered, and idle curiosity (at least) had been partially gratified in the dangerous exploration by these young men, and now perhaps they may understand the significance of monitions, against entering the path that leads down to destruction and associating with those "whose feet take hold on hell."

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## MAGISTRACY.

Persons visiting the County Prison, are struck with the evidence that abounds of some great defect in the system of primary justice in this city; and the evils so justly and so greatly to be deplored, are often unhesitatingly referred to the incompetency or malfeasance of a portion of the magistrates by whom the vagrants, the drunkards, and the violators of the public peace are

committed. Without offering an opinion at present on the question, whether we owe the results of which we speak, to the ministers of justice, or to the system upon which they receive their office, and discharge its duties, we are certainly right in saying that any attempt to alleviate the miseries of public jails, must first grapple with the administration of primary justice; must begin with creating a respect for the officers of the law, and must satisfy the accused that the object of arrest is not so much the profit of the magistrate as the benefit of society; and that while the balance is held with a clean and steady hand, the costs are imposed less for the benefit of the magistrate than for the punishment for a violation of the law and the improvement of the offender.

But before we can hope for any amendment of the system, we must enable the public to comprehend the reality and the extent of the evil which is deplored, and which it is the object of the friends of sound justice to correct.

The "Station-House" and the County Prison are crowded with persons who do not feel that they have done an injury to others, or at most, they think their offence is of a most venial kind. The offence of "vagrancy" is so undefined, that it is easy to commit almost any idle person upon such a charge, and equally easy to let him go. "Disorderly conduct," which appends to the offence of drunkenness, the punishment of a month confinement instead of a day is so uncertain in its character, that the jubilant politician is in danger of imprisonment if his huzzas are strengthened and multiplied by even moderate potations. And "disorderly house" is made to

cover all kinds of disturbances between singing loud to a crying child, and the repeated orgies of drunkenness and prostitution, just as "misdemeanor" includes all indictable offences below actual felony. And "abuse and threats," that formerly expressed something definite, now fill the commitment with most undefinable charges, and the cells with most astonished and astonishing inmates.

The whole system of magisterial justice has, in this city, fallen into disrepute; and those who are the objects of its penalties, seem to lose respect for its ministers and their ministration, and to regard arrest and imprisonment as a misfortune which is as likely to fall upon one as another, if poor, and which therefore justifies any effort to evade the penalty.

This was not always so; we speak of the estimate of aldermanic justice. There never was a time when vice and crime did not abound in a great city, and, consequently, if respect for public rights exists, and a necessity for order is admitted there is likely always to be business for the police, and cases for the magistrates. But there is a mode of conducting both arrests and "hearings," that makes the difference in the proceedings and their effects. And when we shall have looked a little more into the details of the matter as they are presented, we shall not only see the cause of the evils which we deplore, but shall rapidly and easily arrive at a conclusion with regard to some of the means which are to be employed to alleviate the miseries of public prisons, and thus see that the subject of which we now treat, is one that directly connects itself with the aims of the Society, and that it demands from us an opinion of the evil which

it involves, and a consideration of the plans which may be suggested as a remedy.

The small income from the office of Alderman in this city is augmented by a salary allowed to six of them, who may happen to be of the right kind of politics to ensure their claims upon Councils to be elected Police Magistrates. The changes which the Charter of the City has undergone by amendments and substitution, have left Philadelphia in an anomalous situation with regard to offices. Every ward in the city has one or more Aldermen, who possess now little else than the functions of a justice of the peace. And the roll of officials bears also the name of a "Recorder," yet that functionary has few if any other relations with the city government than has the humblest of the Aldermen; or if he has, it is some remnant of ancient obligation to do service never required, or to demand fees seldom paid to him. No one can deny that the present Recorder discharges well the duties of a justice of the peace, so far as his power extends; but no one will say that the office is essential to any branch of justice in the city if all others are well executed.

We speak now rather in abstract, but it may not be out of the way to say, that the citizen who occupies at present the place of Recorder, seems to illustrate the idea of an efficient magistrate, as, without any particular call upon him, he has been a terror and a scourge to evil doers, and thus he magnifies his office, and makes it honorable.

The report of our Prison Agent, extracts from which have been given, shows to what an extent the evil to which

we allude has already extended. His labors procured the release of more than a hundred persons every month. Now, though in many instances the prisoner thus released may have violated some law, and thus have rendered himself obnoxious to the penalties of the statute, yet in a greater part of the committals, investigation shows that the idea of just convictions did not enter into the complaint, and that the magistrate might have caused a settlement of the matter, without recourse to incarceration, in the infliction of fine; or at least it would be easy so to amend the laws of the State as to empower the magistrate to deal thus with the accused. Much the largest part of the commitments, however, are of a kind that do not often come to the knowledge of the Agent, but are referred to the "Visiting Inspectors" of the Prison. These are for drunkenness, disorder, breach of the peace, and vagrancy; and as an Act of Assembly gives to the Inspectors of the Prison the power to discharge persons committed for such offences, it follows that many committed for thirty days are released before the expiration of their term. Intoxication is charged, and the miserable offender is sent to the prison; perhaps a family is dependent upon his or her labor, or an infant needs the nourishment, which only a mother can afford; and the miserable mother is suffering from an excess of that from which only an infant can ordinarily relieve her.

An innocent woman has often been taken up in a grand swoop which a spasmodic effort of the police has made, and she is included in the long list of commitments as drunk, or a vagrant. Many of those who were guilty of the lower offences charged against them receive

no good from their incarceration, and society is not benefitted by their removal from the labor which maintains them and a family, and the imprisonment devolves upon the city the expenses of the support, often both of the offenders and their families.

A considerable portion of the community that have acquaintance with the prison by commitment, are of a class that think all personal redress, and all protection from wrong, and all safety from the consequences of their own misconduct lie in an appeal to the magistrate, and a trifling quarrel in a neighborhood frequently leads to the arrest and incarceration of the principal members of several families, and the offending and the offended parties are often seen withdrawing from the contests of hands and clubs, and contending in a foot race to see which shall first enter complaint before a magistrate. Often in these matters both succeed; each contrives to get his antagonist into prison, and mulct him in costs. Occasionally it happens, that "the race is not to the swift;" success is found to depend on the possession of the means to pay the first cost of the action. Perhaps the most painful, because the most unrighteous, of this kind of suits, are those in which a quarrelsome drunkard, having beaten his wife, proceeds at once to the magistrate and charges her, on oath, with assault and battery, or with assault and threats, and the poor woman comes down to the prison with her head bruised, her eyes blackened, and her whole frame bearing marks of the outrageous injury inflicted by her cowardly, drunken husband, who, after a few days, finding his household matters in some derangement for want of a female head,

obligingly releases his wife from prison, till his time for another debauch has arrived. Nor is it to be denied that the drunken wife often, very often, brings the husband into similar difficulties. In some of these cases a magistrate might, by interference, mitigate a portion of the misery which is inflicted, and by his friendly advice prevent much that usually follows.

This constant resort to litigation in those who have no "cause" but what they create of themselves, is one of the crying evils of the times. The facility of a warrant, and the knowledge that the facility results from its price, cause a large portion of the cases which reach our courts of justice, or are settled, "with costs," between the Alderman's office and the jury-room.

Another class of cases is found in the prison—that of disorderly houses. Now it is well understood that the term "disorderly house," has a specific signification when connected with a charge before an Alderman; yet, on enquiry as to the character of the "disorder," it frequently happens that the offenders were in the exercise of customary rights in their own apartment. Singing, perhaps, or talking loudly; or, it may happen, that not even such disturbances are mentioned. But the proprietor of the house, usually an under-letter, can do better with his contracted premises by a larger rent, or more ready collection, he therefore incurs the cost of magisterial interference, the tenants, he knows, cannot find freehold bail, they will sell a part of their goods to pay back rent and cost, and for the sake of exemption, or release from confinement, will agree to leave the rooms, and thus the prosecutor secures the first object



of his unjust movement, and is saved also the cost of a defeat in court.

The number of persons committed on the charge of "disorderly houses," is astonishing; especially when it is considered how many "disorderly houses" remain unvisited, and the occupants not arrested. But we must not forget the fact, that the movement of the magistrate in these cases is sanctioned, perhaps required, by the solemn oath of the complainant.

With these remarks we are led to the consideration of the subject with which we commenced this part of our Report, namely, THE MAGISTRACY, and their alleged complicity in the evil which we deplore, and which we would diminish for the sake of the miserable victims of temporary power, and for the sake of the credit of our community.

On all sides we hear the complaint of the character and conduct of the Aldermen of the city; many of them, it is stated, use their office to extort from the unfortunate poor, a portion of their hard earnings, and thus deprive the homes of the laborer of the little comforts of which they are susceptible. They entertain complaints, it is said, of acts which need not be construed into offence against the law, and thus encourage litigation, and perpetuate feuds among those whom it would seem to be their duty, as magistrates, to "keep at peace with all men."

We have already enumerated and repeated the classes of cases which most encumber the dockets of the Aldermen, and which are made of more importance than they deserve by the effects on the income of the magistrates which these causes produce. But the enumeration and

repetition alone of these would not be a part of the duties of this Society, or form a portion of this Report, if they did not suggest a call for remedy. It is not the evils of prisons that constitute the object of this Society, but the melioration of those evils.

Taking, then, the existence of the evils, as we have only hinted at them, and admitting (as we are free to do, and as we do with pleasure, because it is just) that while the cry against the magistracy is universal, the fault is really found in only a part of them, the inquiry is, "how shall all this be remedied?"

"*Elect better Aldermen*," say those who wish for a better state of things. "Elect suitable men, and the evil is at once remedied."

Undoubtedly the plan is good; but is it practicable? For many years the Aldermen of Philadelphia have been elected by the people, and in many instances the choice has been judicious, but in others either the official conduct of the magistrate has deteriorated into the grossest kind of improprieties, or he has been compelled to give place to some greater favorite of the voters of his ward, who would begin his descending march some grades below that at which his predecessor closed his career. So large a portion of the duties of the Alderman who has most to do as a police magistrate, are beyond the knowledge and sympathy of the respectable portion of the community, that little interest is taken in his election by those who feel a sense of shame at the improprieties of a functionary connected with the administration of justice; and in many parts of the city the knowledge

and sympathy of that class would avail nothing towards the election of another person.

The Grand Jury recently inquiring for the city and county of Philadelphia, made the following severe strictures upon Aldermen :

“It has been a matter of exceeding regret that the law has not clothed this body with discretionary power to tax the magistrates, before whom the cases were heard, with the costs, as a proper rebuke to that avarice which seeks to convert litigation and contention into a source of gain,—which offers a premium for crimes, by making the ministers of the law the transgressors, and prostituting the province of peace-makers to that of a common barrator.”

As the Grand jury did not, of course, desire to be directly personal when they were not about to find a bill, they let their censure take a general course. They set forth an evil, and that, perhaps, was enough, till some special case of wrong should be laid before them.

But the alleviation of the evil—the remedy. It is evident the remedy is not in the ballot-box—the root of the evil lies far back of that; nor is it in the statutes of the Commonwealth. The Constitution of the State is in fault; and until that is modified, or till some act of the Assembly can be passed superseding the Aldermen in their special police duties, we cannot hope for any diminution of the evil. The Aldermen of the city are elected by the voters of their own wards, and he who can command the most votes, can, if he desire it, be chosen Alderman. No man of wealth seeks the place,—no man of business habits asks for a nomination. The rewards of the office are, at best, below that of ordinary business; and the distinction which the place

confers is not that which gratifies the wishes of the ambitious. But the place is coveted and obtained, its emoluments spring from the fees paid by those who come or are brought before the magistrate. If his business is multiplied, his profits, of course, are increased; and as he sought the place for the means of a living, he must avail himself of the capabilities of the place to augment those means. If people will "sue and be sued," if people will fight and go to law, if neighbors will quarrel, and then drag each other before the magistrate, it may seem, to the functionary, rather a thankless exercise of his ability, to recommend such an adjustment of the case as will deprive him of the fees of office, by which he lives. And while most philanthropists would applaud the magistrate who sat to reconcile rather than to punish,—who dispensed with his fees while he dispensed kindness and affection rather than justice,—it is probable that the family for which he was bound to provide would have to look to some other means of support than those supplied by the man who looked to the peace of the neighborhood rather than the augmentation of fees. And it may as well be added, that the magistrate who should thus employ his functions, would soon fail of objects, provided another alderman could be found who would grant to passion its first demand. For it is evident that most of the complaints that come before our aldermen are brought by those who seek to gratify personal animosity and a sudden desire of vengeance rather than any wish to punish the wrong-doer for the sake of right. We must take men as they are, not as we could wish them

to be. We must recognize in the office of an alderman the means of support for the incumbent and his family; and while all around us, men are exercising their talents and taxing their ingenuity, to gain wealth by the advantages which the law allows, we must not suppose that the alderman is to sit in magisterial quiet, and suffer the vails of office to escape his grasp, when they are the fruits of a labor sanctioned by law or warranted by official custom.

If we would remedy the evils about which so much has been justly said, and concerning which the Grand Jury has spoken so plainly, we must do something more than talk and complain.

We have already said the evil finds its source and sanction in the Constitution of our State. The change of the whole mode of supplying the magistrates and judicial officers, that was wrought by the present Constitution, may have corrected some evils: the *general* question is one which we are now not called upon to discuss; but we may say, that experience shows that nothing has been gained with regard to the administration of justice in the magistrates offices of our city. Twenty-five years experience shows that none of the evils complained of in this department have been diminished, while most of them have been augmented, and new ones added to the list. This seems almost a necessary result of the system, and thus calls for prompt, effective remedy.

What is required in Philadelphia, is a class of Police Magistrates, with a salary that shall secure and compensate the services of competent men, who shall have

no pecuniary temptation to commit any person brought before them, and whose character and condition shall give weight, no less to their decisions than their recommendations. Placed by the tenor and fixed reward of their office above dependence upon those who shall demand justice in others, or receive it in themselves, they shall not shrink from their duty to condemn, more than from their sense of propriety to discharge.

Of legal qualifications we have little to say. The layman, fitted by character and ordinary education for the place of police magistrate, might soon become sufficiently learned in the law and requirements of his place, to discharge with fidelity and success the duties thereof. A considerable number of those now holding the office of Alderman, and as such elected occasionally as Police Magistrates, show themselves competent to all the duties of their office, and worthy of the position which would be opened to them, should the reformation that we suggest ever be made. It is not always the man,—it is the circumstances in which he is placed; it is the necessities of nomination, the demands of the election, and the condition into which the office has been brought, that hinder some in their attempts at good, and deprive the city of benefits from the services of those who, under other circumstances, would promote public order, and acquire honor by their administration of justice and their exercise of humane powers.

And while so much freedom has been exercised in censuring the official conduct of some of the Aldermen of our city,—a freedom that is suggested and can be sustained by facts,—it is due to the cause of truth and

justice to repeat emphatically what is readily admitted above, that many of the magistrates are eminently deserving of commendation, as well for the abilities they possess, as for the use to which those abilities are applied in the discharge of their vexatious duties. And it may be added, that some of those who have been most censured, have shown themselves possessed of good feelings, and amenable to the requirements of courtesy and humanity. The system is in fault; and till that is changed for the better,—reformed altogether,—we cannot look for any considerable improvement in the administration of justice in police offices. For it is a lamentable fact, that such is the want of confidence in some of the magistrates, that the decisions of the able and the good are treated with a distrust most dangerous to public order.

Our judiciary, from the lowest offices to the highest, was derived from England. The names of the officials, the cause of their proceedings, the rules of their action, are all from the parent country. If we have not derived from these all the benefits which might be expected, and all we see England enjoy, it is worth while for those interested to inquire what has disturbed public opinion, what has weakened public respect, what has augmented the law's delay, or what has strengthened the general opinion of its uncertainty. So far as such feelings, if any such exist, may connect themselves with the "courts of record" of our State, it is not the object of the present Report to discuss the cause, to point to their extent, or suggest a remedy. But we have legitimately before us the evils of a bad system of minor

justice, and we are therefore right in suggesting a remedy.

The progress of society abroad suggests remedies for evils which it is the duty of the people of this country to consider. And the mode of administering justice in police courts in London, eminently deserves the attention of those who deplore the deficiency and seek for a substitute in Philadelphia. It is simple, easy, practical. Magistrates of established character are appointed, to hold office during good behavior. They have a salary ample to maintain themselves and a family. Their office has with it something of the character of the Court of Sessions, and thus there attaches to their persons an idea of judicial dignity, which is to be respected on the police bench, and which respects itself when in the world. These officers are not tempted, by inadequacy of income, to augment the business of their office, that they may profit by costs or compromise. Those who are compelled by business or misfortune to appear before them, feel that respect is due to the administration of justice in its incipient stages, and a large portion of those who are charged with the violation of law, appeal with confidence to those magistrates for summary proceedings, (which the law there allows,) in preference to the delay which would attend a reference of their case to a jury. Such a power on the part of the police magistrate is found most advantageous to justice in London, resulting in great saving to the city and county, without lessening the terrors of the law,—rather augmenting them by the promptness of punishment.

Should the Legislature of the State be disposed to remedy the existing evils in this city, by providing for



an alteration in the Constitution, by which the mode of acquiring, and the terms of holding, office by the Aldermen shall be changed, it is possible that an enlargement of power, such as we have noticed in the London magistracy, would be granted, so that justice would be promptly as well as carefully administered.

We have, in this chapter, touched upon one disturbing element, and we have done it with no view to cast indiscriminate odium upon any citizen. The evil to which we have adverted, exists. The great cause, however, of the evil, we have shown to arise out of the Constitution of the State, or from a deficiency of legislation. We lack no talent in this city for judicial or magisterial place; but we have failed in attempts to call those talents into the best exercise, and to insure to them the highest public respect.

There is, however, another disturbing cause, which we must look at steadily, if we would understand its bearing on society, its influence on morals, and especially its connection with the subject of prison occupation and prison discipline. And especially ought we to present the subject in immediate connection with a consideration of the Magistracy. It is *Intoxication* that crowds the police office and the alderman's tribunal. Hourly is the magistrate called to commit or fine the violator of the law of temperance. The miserable wretches come into his presence without power to discriminate between right and wrong, with no command of their own movements, and no sense of propriety with regard to conduct or conversation; and complaints are sometimes made that these creatures are

not treated with suitable consideration. Let us, when we consider the duties and conduct of magistrates, not overlook the disgusting materials to which they are to administer justice, nor blame them if they sometimes suffer the prisoner to hold the rank which he assigns to himself.

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## INTEMPERANCE.

Of any two hundred persons committed to the County Prison, probably one hundred and fifty owe their incarceration to drunkenness. Assault and battery, breach of the peace, misdemeanor, vagrancy, abuse and threats, disorderly conduct, and other charges which figure upon the commitments sent by the magistrate with the prisoner, are often only other terms for drunkenness and only varieties in the *charge* or slight additions to the offence; and even the higher offences against the law are frequently referable to, or connected with, intemperance in the use of intoxicating liquors; and it generally happens that when the prisoner is questioned with regard to the temptation to steal, to fight, or commit some other misdemeanor with which he stands charged, he replies that he knows nothing about such acts, he only took a drop too much, or was a "little tight;" he remembers a mass of things, yet nothing distinctly, and professes to feel greatly injured in being

committed for a misdemeanor, when he had done nothing but get drunk; or that he should have been charged with assault and battery when he had only beaten his wife or struck the officer that arrested him; nor does he find it reconcilable with justice that he should be charged with abuse and threats for merely cursing the magistrate and offering to break his head at a moment of greater soberness. This vice of excessive drinking is then so intimately connected with the administration of justice, either as a motive or a stimulant for offences against the law, that it is deemed proper to consider it more closely in connection with prison discipline, in order that we may understand what are the duties of society in regard to its means and subjects, and thus we may also comprehend how entirely its suppression becomes a means of ameliorating the condition of public prisons. If we would lessen the evils of prisons, perhaps the most important step would be to diminish the number of prisoners. To strike from the list of offences that offence which is the parent, the assistant, and the offspring of so many more—would seem to be a great advance in the work of those who seek to denounce vice as well as to correct the vicious and criminal.

How drunkenness is to be diminished in our community, is a problem difficult of solution. Attempts have been made of various kinds, with various degrees of temporary success; but the appetites of one class and the cupidity of another, seem to baffle the efforts of the benevolent and counteract the enactments of legislatures. It may however tend towards an amendment,

that something of the extent of the evil should be made public.

The means of intemperance are indeed public and its fruits abound, but very few stop to notice the extent of any habit that grows up gradually in a community and is consistent with general customs and taste, and only to be condemned for its excess, or only to be entirely condemned when its excess shows that the evils of abuse outweigh all advantages of moderate indulgence. Not many who read this report have thought to note the multiplied number of shops, saloons, taverns, hotels, casinos and cellars, whose maintenance is the profit on the sale of intoxicating liquors; yet these places present themselves all around us, and in certain parts of the city they are in such abundance as would lead one, a stranger to our domestic life, to suppose that the chief employment of the people was vending liquors, and the principle food was whiskey. Fifty grog shops and liquor stores are found for one bakery, so that Falstaff's "penny for bread and a shilling for sack," seems no longer an extravagant partiality for liquids over solids; and, if it should be said that many families bake their loaves instead of depending on the bakers for their daily bread, it may with equal truth be replied that thousands of those who reach Moyamensing Prison for drunkenness, maintain a household altar to intemperance, at which their neighbors also sacrifice (themselves and their character) in devotion to the social jug, from which drunkenness can be imbibed without the expense of a license or the payments of profits to the retailer.

Can such things be, and drunkenness not abound? Can so many places for the sale of liquor be maintained with gain to the proprietors merely upon the profit of getting people drunk without a terrible deterioration of public morals? It is proved by the revelations of our courts of justice, by the confession of prisoners and the statements of sufferers, that many of the keepers of these drinking places augment their profits by other crimes than that of intoxicating their fellow-men, by making indeed intoxication only a step towards almost every other species of criminality; and while the prison cells are crowded with the offenders and sufferers from these haunts of vice and crime, thousands leave unrevealed their sufferings and their losses rather than expose their weakness and vice in frequenting such resorts and yielding to the temptations of the place.

In presenting these remarks on the means and extent of intemperance, it is not to be inferred that the Philadelphia Society for alleviating the miseries of prisoners, is about to resolve itself into a temperance society, or create a committee to lessen the evil of intoxication. This society has its specific duties, which it endeavors to discharge fully and profitably; but if vices and woes cluster, virtue and peace also associate,—and if we would lessen any considerable evil we must seek to diminish its cause. This society has incidental association with almost all the benevolent and humane institutions of the city. The repentant, impure female is recommended to the Magdalen, the Rosine, or the Good Shepherd. The female vagrant or the thief, is conducted to the Howard Home or some other refuge with

which the Committee or the Agent is in correspondence. The young are transferred from the cell of the prison to the care of the House of Refuge. Is it then less consistent with the objects of this society that it should put itself in harmonious action with those who would lessen the overwhelming vice of drunkenness by which the cells of our prison are crowded, not only by drunkenness, but by those who having by drunkenness forfeited the esteem of society and lost their own respect, sink into lower debasement and lose all distinction between vice and crime, and practice theft as the means and intoxication as the end of living.

No one unacquainted with the life of a drunkard, but especially of an habitual female drunkard, can form a correct idea of the irrepressible thirst which the constant use of intoxicating liquors imposes. In a man it is usually a love of the *taste* of drink and the habit of social drinking; and the habit is often broken and the male drunkard restored. In woman the desire is for the *effect* of liquor, the feelings to which it gives rise; and the indulgence is more frequently solitary than social: and however strong the sense of wrong, however deep may be the regret for the folly when the evil moment of intoxication is over and the secondary results succeed, still it rarely happens that the repentance is deep or the amendment permanent. We do not know how many women have triumphed over a strong appetite for intoxicating liquors; thousands, of course, have solemnly but terribly wrestled with the deadly enemy and conquered; many thousands maintain "the irrepressible conflict" with various degrees of success; but

the prison and the almshouse records show that with another class, mighty in number and important in interest, resistance is relinquished, shame forgotten, and the daughter, the wife and the mother confess themselves the captives of that one vice which sacrifices every female virtue to the gratification of rapacious appetite. This subject commends itself to the regard of the philanthropist, it calls for the attention of the magistrate, and it asks for some new legislation; what that legislation should be in detail, we do not pretend to say; our duty in the capacity in which we now act is done when we thus expose the evils whose existence and a part of whose terrible effects we discern in our prison visitations. We do not exaggerate the means nor the devotion to drunkenness in what we here state. The inducements to intoxication are double those which we have mentioned, and all vices and passions are made subservient to the work of selling liquor, while the effect of the poison sold is promotive of other vices. The accursed bottle is not confined to the house, the cellar, the dram shop, nor the saloon, it follows the miserable devotee to the police station, and the very van in which the drunkard is conveyed to the prison has its illicit bottle, so that if a single one of the inebriates should have failed of the necessary quantity for entire intoxication, or one should have recovered a gleam of reason, there should not be wanting the means of completing or restoring the work; and, it may be added, that it is with the utmost vigilance that the officers of the prison are enabled to keep intoxicating liquors from the cells. It is a melancholy fact that the husband

endeavors to smuggle a contraband bottle into the cell where his wife is confined for drunkenness; and mothers while lamenting the hereditary misconduct of their daughters, seek to convey comfort to the young offender in the form of coffee strongly "laced" with whiskey. The right hand of fellowship extended through the aperture of the cell door, is the means of conveying a phial of brandy carefully deposited in the ample sleeve, and the affectionate friend that comes to sympathize with her incarcerated companion, exposes as she reaches forward to reciprocate a kiss, the forbidden bottle hidden in the bosom of her dress. It is then not only the appetite for whiskey against which opposition is to be made at our prison, but the deep sympathy which is manifested for those who suffer for a want of means and place to gratify that appetite.

Undoubtedly an immense saving in city expenditures would be made, to the relief of the tax-payer, if such an abuse of humanity could be corrected. And while we know that society would recognize at once any successful effort to suppress drunkenness, we feel that a moral desolation would be removed, could we cut down root and branch, the terrible *Bahan Upas* of our country, whose pestiferous branches destroy all vegetation beneath their ample shade, and spread misery and ruin throughout the circle of influences.

We dare not say however that, because almost all who are brought to the County Prison are habitual drunkards, that the entire *abolition* of intoxicating drinks would depopulate our prisons. The experience of the world is different. In Great Britain, Ireland



and Germany, the frequenter of the prison is usually a drunkard. In Italy, especially in the South of Italy, drunkenness is almost unknown among the natives. Three years' residence in the city of Naples failed to present to the narrator a single instance of a drunken Neapolitan, high or low, rich or poor; while frequent visitations to the prisons showed them amply populous. Perhaps there is in Italy some prevailing vice as productive of evil as drunkenness—perhaps drunkenness is in other countries the resort of the bad—of men and women who seek the gratification of a diseased appetite, not as a consequence or means of crime, but only to enjoy such gratifications as are consistent with and are punished by crime. The destruction of the Bahan Upas then may not restore herbage to the field; nay, to find a comparison nearer home, the stately pine is often cut down that culture and care may ensure a profitable crop for the soil which it has overshadowed, but a single season's neglect shows that in the same earth there lies concealed the germ of other trees and shrubbery, and instead of the single overshadowing object, fifty smaller ones spring up to occupy the ground and prevent the growth of herbage. So the avoidance of a great leading vice does not without watchful care insure with certainty a growth of gentle virtues, some lesser passions, some yet uncultivated appetites that lie latent in the heart, spring into active growth, and become as dominant by their multitude as the ruling one did by its single power.

Yet however appalling may be the vice that is adopted by those who do not fall into the habit of drunkenness,

there is always more hope of reclaiming the unfortunate male offender, whatever may be his vice, than there is of inducing the female inebriate to forsake the bottle. Larceny is committed to supply some want, not to gratify an imperious appetite; it leads to solitary confinement for a length of time, and the thief is easily persuaded to reflect, and often induced to amend. He understands, indeed, that his offence is directly against others, and that it provokes the injured to visit upon him the penalty of the violated law, and the anger of an offended society, that arms itself against him. The poor drunkard awakens from his debauchery, and finds a craving thirst for that which prostrated him, and feels that as he has done little or no direct wrong to others beyond his family, his offence is against himself, and the offended one in such a case easily pardons. If it is a female, it is not merely the love of liquor, in the use of which "increase of appetite grows by what it feeds on," but it is that desire for the forgetfulness of sorrow, that love for the excitement of the nerves, that oblivion of the unhappy past, and that elevation above the miserable future which distinguishes her delirium of drunkenness from the effects of intoxication in man.

The impure female, in her rapid descent, is rarely unmindful of her degradation; and thousands are redeemed from vice by the kind interference of the humane; but when once she has found in the use of intoxicating liquor that paradise of the drunkard, she is rarely ever led by persuasion to return to reason and sobriety; nothing but forceful restraint will keep the wretched victim from the use of the means, and that restraint will

not quench the thirst, nor diminish the desire, for the deceptive dreams of happiness.

*Prevention! Prevention!* domestic discipline, social care, and social censure, can alone diminish this evil, and free our community from that awful scourge—a drunken woman—and alleviate the miseries which are found in the cell of the inebriate prisoner.

It is not to be denied that there has been a great increase in the habit of using intoxicating liquors within a few years. It is a growing evil of terrible dimensions and appalling effects; and the worst part of the curse is its continued augmentation. How is this evil to be lessened? How is society to be saved from the terrible maelstrom, which seems to draw all to its eddying circle, and involves in ruin all that it embraces. It is not the business of this Society, perhaps, to resolve itself into a “temperance association;” but there are precedents in its proceedings for direct action in the matter, at least so far as concerns the prisons. We have asked, by solemn resolve, that the use of tobacco may be restrained in the cells; not, perhaps, merely because tobacco is in itself so injurious, but principally because the use of that narcotic creates a thirst, which seems to have no appeasement but in strong drink. To use a salutary and direct influence, then, in diminishing drunkenness, must *a fortiori* be within the plan of our Society.

But it may be said that while the use of tobacco has generally been among the admissible indulgence of prisoners, strong liquors have not been allowed. It is by no means certain that in other times the laboring prisoners were not allowed a regular, limited, supply of

strong drink, but certainly not lately; yet as it is admitted that most of the criminal and vicious that are sent to our prisons owe their confinement to drunkenness, or at least make their condition worse by intoxication; and especially, as it is evident, that efforts to redeem from crime the released, are defeated by the facility with which intoxication may be had, it can scarcely be doubted that the Society is in the exercise of its legitimate powers, and in the discharge of its assumed duties, when it encourages all good efforts to lessen the prevailing sin and disgrace of the age, and lends its sanction to efforts directed to the diminution of the habit and the means of drunkenness.

How shall that be done? Shall this Society initiate a plan for promoting temperance, or shall it lend its hearty co-operation to some association that shall have for its principal object that which could only be a branch, a true, living branch, indeed, but only a branch of the duties of the Society for alleviating the miseries of prisons?

This Society can at least, and by the adoption of this Report, does, bear solemn testimony against the prevalence, the multiplication, and the existence of the magazines of mischief, where drunkenness is secured by the cost of the honor of the inebriate, and the disgrace of Society. Citizens who watch with most painful vigilance the action of the City Councils that enhance or diminish by a *single per cent.* the tax upon property, would consult their own interest more if they would look into this one cause of the increase of rates. But our business with the subject is in the interest of humanity. That is

cheapest, at whatever cost, which produces the greatest good of the greatest number; and the good of the greatest number must depend on the promotion of sound morals.

With such a view of the prevalence of intemperance, and with such an avowal of the motives of humanity with which this Society regards all vices or crimes that go to make up the sum of the miseries of our public prisons, it may not be improper to state that among the institutions which humanity has yet to establish in Philadelphia, (it has already suggested it,) is a hospital or place of reception and treatment of inebriates. The prison punishes them, it does not cure; and few, excepting those who have seen the drunkard in the agonies of *delirium tremens*, or the terrors of *mania a potu*, can comprehend all the evils which the drunkard accumulates upon his own head, (the domestic misery which he insures, and the general scandal which he causes, may be otherwise considered,) but the personal suffering of the drunkard, after his committal for protracted debauch, is beyond description. It is not without some reason that the cells of the prison which are especially devoted to cases of *delirium* and *mania* are denominated "Purgatory," though it would seem from the unutterable agonies and indescribable apprehension of the inmates that even if they should "go farther," they would scarcely "fare worse."

It is hoped, that when the national troubles that now occupy public attention, and draw upon the fiscal means of our citizens shall have ceased, there will be some effort in the direction of a "Hospital for Inebriates,"

where proper moral and physical treatment may restore to families and society, those whose intemperate habits have alienated them from the affections of friends, or failing to restore them to reason and propriety, a home may be provided where they cannot by habitual indulgence, degrade themselves further, and by which families and friends may be spared the disgrace of a drunken inmate.

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## HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

In the preceding divisions of this Report, it has been shown that the County Prison is peopled and re-peopled by persons who pass regularly from vice to vice, or from one degree of vice to another, marking their progress with a short residence in the cells of the prison, remaining at the longest only thirty days, and associating with those who may be their teachers or pupils in misdemeanors. It is not pretended by those who send these offenders to the prison, that the incarceration will amend their habits,—it is only the means of punishment; nor is it more than desired,—scarcely to be hoped,—by those who seek to alleviate the miseries of the prison, that the confinement of thirty days will tend to repentance and amendment of the vicious offender.

It is evident that more is required,—more in the way

of wholesome discipline, more in time, more in direct appeals and instruction, more in the enforcement of industry. The prison cannot do much more than it is doing for the vicious. The solemn pledges of the intemperate to avoid intoxicating drink are slightly regarded when the means of violation are enticingly offered, and all the vices which have procured imprisonment lose their terrors, or double their attractions, when the temporary punishment is accomplished.

It is evident then that we need a resort for the vicious that will offer to society some hope that even if the vice is not avoided, the vicious shall be kept where they will cease to degrade society by their misconduct and lead others to destruction by their example.

We need a "House of Correction," a place to receive those men and women who will not be reclaimed by monitions, or short confinement. We need a place where time for thinking can be found, and where the food for reflection may be supplied.

But in this case we cannot throw the censure for deficiency on the Legislature of the State. The wants of the community are admitted, and the right to supply those wants granted: the means are withheld by the city authority. Resolutions for building a Municipal Hospital for the reception, care and cure of those attacked with the small-pox, are adopted, and the means for carrying into effect those resolutions are supplied by the Councils of the city. That is well, and denotes a paternal care, on their part, of the interest and health of their constituents. But why—when authority is given, why not provide a Hospital for those struck with the

pestilence of drunkenness and the accumulated miseries that come in its train? Is there a disease in the whole catalogue of human suffering that is more epidemic, if not contagious, than intoxication? or is there one that multiplies itself more by social contact? And why then should the vagrant, the breaker of the peace, the drunkard, multiply his or her disease more than the sufferer by the small-pox or cholera? If the hospital for the small-pox is a retreat for the sufferer, and his family and neighborhood need to be relieved from the danger of his condition, the House of Correction would be no less an asylum for the vicious, in which they could grow better by care, and escape the evil of communicating their mental disease to their neighbors.

In whatever light the House of Correction is regarded, it presents the highest claims on society for its establishment. Is it to be a place into which the vicious are to be driven by the law, that they may be punished for their offence, and society saved the disgrace and danger of their presence? Society has a right to demand such a forceful withdrawal of the elements of crime from its midst. Is it to be a place of enforced refuge for the willing or unwilling victim of vice, where habits of disorder may be broken and new habits of industry and propriety established, where good counsel shall make reasonable and acceptable the moderate discipline of the place, where good example shall illustrate the lessons of good morals, and the exhibition of orderly propriety of the place be made to contrast with the squallor and misery of the resorts of vice from which the inmates have been gathered, and thus virtue en-



forced and resolutions of good formed, and their exercise for some time at least insured? Then it is solemnly urged that the House of Correction is called for by all that humanity can contrive and sound policy can suggest.

In this matter the Society has done its part, and is ready, when empowered, to continue its labor in the direction of amending the vicious. But whether the Society have or have not any direct relations with the House of Correction, it must feel that the interests of this great community, of humanity and of virtue, suffer by the delay in providing for its erection. If there be truth in the statements submitted with regard to the number and character of those who are habitués of the County Prison, we need no argument in favor of the House of Correction.

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## AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

“To do good and to communicate” should be the object of every philanthropist, as it certainly is the aim of this Society; and it is with pleasure that we now announce that a correspondence between the President of the Society and several distinguished gentlemen in different parts of this State, warrant a hope that before long, Societies, auxiliaries to this, will be established in various counties of the Commonwealth, and the phi-

lanthrophy of the good of both sexes will be called into new action and concentrated upon the great object of lessening the miseries of public prisons in their neighborhood, by suggesting improvements in the police and general administration of the establishments, and by dealing directly and affectionately with the miserable inmates of the cells or the crowded rooms.

The correspondence with those to whom the measure has been opened, shows a readiness on the part of some to begin the work ; but prudential considerations have suggested a postponement of the undertaking, in some counties, till a strong and steady co-operation can be secured from those who are now absent in the service of the country, or till the state of the country will allow men of public spirit and of philanthropic principles to withdraw their attention from national matters. Certainly a postponement upon such grounds is to be preferred to a failure of efforts from a want of thorough co-operation.

It is desirable that auxiliary societies should be established, in order to call into exercise, and direct into proper channels, the spirit of philanthropy that abounds in our State, and to give object and employment to that self-denying devotion which marks the character of woman, and is found in a class of men that rarely are named with public benefactors, though they are found, when opportunities present, where humanity has its most repulsive duties and earns its highest rewards.

A correspondence between the parent Society and its auxiliaries in the interior of the State, or with independent associations laboring to the same end and with

similar means, would diffuse information that would stimulate exertion and promote the great object of alleviating the miseries of prisoners. Especially would such auxiliaries often assist the agents and committees of the parent Society, by information as to the character of prisoners, and aid in procuring employment for the repentant vicious and criminal, who would strengthen their good resolution by seeking occupation where the chance of meeting old associates would be greatly diminished, and where temptations to a recurrence to former faults would not abound. It is now believed that the hopes of forming these auxiliaries will soon be realized. But there has always been found some difficulty in the first steps towards an organization. The willingness of many needs information to strengthen resolve; and especially is it found that where there is to be a concurrent action, there is great need of some representative of the views and sentiments of the parent Society, to concentrate and direct the efforts of those who, with the best motives and most earnest wishes for success, pause upon the initiatory step, from distrust as to their ability to organize and direct a society, or an apprehension that they may lack the hearty co-operation of others no less philanthropic or energetic than themselves.

We, perhaps, then shall need, at a proper time, some representative of the parent Society specially deputed to stir up the public mind in the direction of humanity in prisons, and to take advantage of the effects of his labors to unite the exertions of the good in the form of auxiliaries, that shall have their committees in every place of imprisonment, doing the work of philanthropy

by alleviating the miseries of prisons and improving the moral condition of the prisoners. These auxiliaries will aid the parent Society in influencing legislation favorable to the cause of humanity, and, in proportion to their number and to the character of their members, they will be felt and their power acknowledged by the Representatives of the people, not in any attempt at dictation, but in the mild, steady presentation and advocacy of measures of amelioration that shall triumph by their inherent beauty and mercy, influencing public sentiment and purifying legislative enactments.

In a subsequent part of this Report, under the head of "Correspondence," will be found large supplemental abstracts of British Parliamentary Reports; and it is thought that a few words explanatory of the British and Irish system might, in this part of our Report, be made useful in aid of the plan for auxiliaries. England has learned much from us in the work of Prison Discipline: we might learn something of her, (more, indeed, than we *shall* acquire,) were our institutions more assimilated, and especially were we as geographically circumscribed as she is.

The "Prison Reports," physical and moral, in Great Britain, are all to the Government of the nation; and every part of every city jail seems to work with as distinct a reference to the whole system of prison regulation as the lower clerkships of a State Department do to the administration of the whole. This, it must be admitted, is easy in that country, where there is but one legislature to direct, and one government to administer and execute. It would be impossible in this

country, for the National Congress to issue ordinances for the administration of *State*, county, and city prisons. To say nothing of State rights and State sovereignty, there would be insurmountable difficulties in prescribing and carrying out rules for prison discipline and dietaries for all the jails from Oregon to Maine. So that, when we read of the happy and harmonious working of the prison laws in Ireland and Great Britain, we must call to mind the proximity of each establishment to the other, and of the whole to the Government, to whose chief officers they are bound to make report, and with whose agents they are bound to co-operate. In England and Ireland the difference of longitude is so small, that, by the Sovereign's command, it is made mid-day at the same moment in both kingdoms. In the United States, something more than human power would be required to work out that wonder, and something more than constitutional prerogative would be necessary to enforce it. We must take things as they are, and work with the means and in the space which are allowed. If we cannot expect national interference in behalf of prison discipline, we certainly may appeal to the State in which we live to exercise and dignify its sovereignty by legislation that will adapt prisons and their discipline to the use of society, and while the House is one of penal discipline, it shall be a place of moral improvement. We scarcely expect the Legislature of the State to initiate the good work. It is the duty of those who feel most anxious for its establishment, to prepare the means and present the arguments; and it is believed that no means of inducing a systematic arrangement of

prison discipline throughout the State exists outside this Society. Persons abound who see and deplore the evils of the present want of system, but they lack the full information, and especially do they lack concurrent action; and it is believed that the establishment of auxiliary societies throughout the State would produce the ends proposed, viz., properly constructed prisons, the establishment and maintenance of proper discipline; and the whole co-operative and correspondent, each with the other, till the system work, with regard to the government, as perfectly in Pennsylvania as it does in Great Britain, and much more effective in the interest of humanity and virtue. We have little to change, excepting the structures of our prisons, and the consequent classification and treatment of prisoners; little to unlearn in their management; we are not wedded to any past theory. It is generally admitted, that much of what this Society condemns is wrong; the only doubt, or supposed difficulty, is how it can be remedied. That doubt and that difficulty will be removed when auxiliary Societies shall be established to correct and embody public sentiment, and when the parent Society, through its branches, shall be allowed to bring its moral action into co-operation with the physical efforts of the Commonwealth, to alleviate the miseries of public prisons.

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## COMPENSATION TO PRISONERS FOR OVER-WORK.

Among the inquiries instituted by the Society this year, was one that related to the earnings of convicts in the Eastern Penitentiary, which arose out of a complaint made by a United States prisoner, who had received, as he thought, less for over-work than was in reality due to him. The character of the prisoner, or the title of the court by which he was sentenced, had nothing to do with the character of the claim, or the interest which the Society felt and would manifest in his behalf. He was a prisoner, and as such, whether in the County Jail or the State Penitentiary ; whether sentenced by a Police Magistrate, or by a Judge of the Court of the United States, there could be nothing in his case to alienate him from our sympathies, or deprive him of the benefit of our interference in his behalf.

A committee was instructed to present the case of the complainant to the proper authorities of the Penitentiary, and to ascertain, in the first place, on what principle the over-work of prisoners was estimated, and to make especial reference to the case of the United States prisoner, which had suggested the investigation. It need scarcely be said that these inquiries were to be made with that friendly feeling and high respect which have marked the intercourse of the Society with the authorities of the Eastern Penitentiary, and that the questions were answered with the freedom and feeling of those who have an established, well devised plan of action, and are con-

scious of an adherence to that plan in all its execution ; and the friendly spirit of the Committee of this Society was reciprocated by those to whom the appeal was made.

As settling a question about which some doubt existed, and especially as giving information that must be valuable to many, and interesting to all, the report of the Chairman of the Committee on the Penitentiary is subjoined.

TO THE ACTING COMMITTEE, &c.

As Chairman of the Visiting Committee of the Eastern State Penitentiary, I have been requested to make some inquiry into the manner of determining the value of the work done by the prisoners, and the allowance to be made to them for "overwork." The inquiry has been made accordingly, and the following may be given as the result :—

In the first place, it is an important fact, that the law of the State only directs that convicts shall be sentenced to "hard labor," leaving the *manner* of executing the sentence to the Inspectors and Wardens, or those having the immediate control of the Jails and Penitentiaries. There is no provision for any compensation to the prisoners for this labor ; the primary, and probably the sole purposes for which it was made a part of the sentences, being to enforce it as a salutary part of the prison discipline, and also as a means of compelling the prisoners to contribute something towards the expense of their maintenance ; consequently, any allowance made to them for over-work is altogether a gratuity, which they have no right to claim.

In the exercise of the discretion vested in the Inspectors and Warden of the Penitentiary, they judged that the introduction of rewards to the prisoners for industry would have a salutary tendency in several directions, and they therefore allotted to each of them, a certain quantity of such kind of work as should be given him, to be performed in a day, or a month, to pay for his keep. This is sometimes called "the task," and is so moderate, that with ordinary skill and application, it can be accomplished with ease. Such a money valuation is affixed to this work, as will admit of the Institution obtaining from their outside customers a



small advance, to provide tools, working materials, &c. The prisoner is expected, at the price affixed, to earn for the Institution from twenty to twenty-five cents per day. No penalty, however, is visited on him for a failure, unless it is the result of culpable sloathfulness or insubordination. Every thing done beyond this allotted task, is credited to the prisoner as "over-work," at the same rate affixed to the "task," half of it for the use of the County, and the other half for his own use, to be paid to him at the expiration of his term; or portions of it, during his imprisonment, are applied, at his request, to the purchase of books, or, perhaps, a carpet for the floor of his cell, or some other little comforts beyond the prison allowance which the authorities may permit him to be supplied with, or remitted to his family.

Under this system, many of the convicts, on the well known and generally acknowledged principle, that "the hope of reward sweetens labor," are stimulated to so apply themselves, that they not only fully do what is claimed of them by the Penitentiary, (and which, without this encouragement, would often fail to be performed,) but they sometimes accumulate the very handsome sum of several hundred dollars against their discharge. One of them recently earned \$14 31 *for his own use* in one month—equal to \$171 72 per annum—and remarked that with a full supply of materials, he would have been able to have doubled his earnings. The system, indeed, works admirably, and its influences are salutary in several respects. The interests of the Institution are advanced by it, and the present comfort of those in confinement is promoted, and the susceptibility of their minds to the favorable action of reformatory influences is increased by having their time occupied by what they feel to be profitable employment. Also, without having the character of compulsory labor, it trains them to habits of industry, and practically convinces them of the important truth, that labor is a thing of real value. These habits, and this conviction, will be of great value to them when they again enter into the world, and the money they take with them will be an important aid in starting them afresh in the business of life.

In allotting the tasks, if any of the prisoners appear to be disheartened under an apprehension that they are greater than they can accomplish, and therefore think it useless to attempt it, the Warden reduces them, and thus leads them on gradually, and the result fully

proves that a greater amount of work is actually obtained from them under this system, than would be by the more exacting plan.

The law and rules in these respects, as applied to United States prisoners, having also been under discussion in our Society, special information has been desired on that branch of the subject. It being understood that the General Government pays for their board, doubts have been expressed whether they are bound to labor at all; and if they do, it has been suggested that they should receive a credit for the *whole* value of their work. The first branch of the question is answered and settled by the fact, that they are sentenced to *under* o imprisonment for a certain term, *in conformity with our State Laws*—that is, “at hard labor.” Next, as to compensation, their board being paid. It is true the United States pays for each of its prisoners \$2 50 per week, which is for board, clothing, fuel, medical attendance, and, indeed, all his ordinary wants, and is hardly half of the cost to the Commonwealth, of each of those in confinement. The Penitentiary was erected by the State of Pennsylvania, at a cost of about \$600,000, *for its own use*. The interest of this sum, and an annual appropriation made, to meet current expenses, such as salaries of officers, &c., amount together to about \$50,000 per annum, which, as the average number in confinement does not exceed 400, makes a yearly cost to each of, say \$125, *in addition to their board and incidentals*. It is fairly said, that, although we may be willing to submit to the loss on our own prisoners, it is but reasonable that we should be protected from it, when accommodating the General Government. The result is, that United States prisoners, as regards labor and compensation, are treated throughout in the same manner as our own.

The same principle, as to compensation for labor, though differing somewhat in its practical details, has been introduced into our County Prison, with very satisfactory results. Whether it has been adopted in our Western State Penitentiary at Pittsburgh, or not, we are not clearly informed; and we are not aware that it is to be found in any Jail or Penitentiary beyond the limits of our State. It is one of the advantages of the Pennsylvania Separate System of imprisonment that it better admits of such an arrangement, than where the prisoners are congregated together in the workshops.

E. H. BONSALL.

*Philadelphia, 11th Mo. 19, 1863.*

While on this subject, it is deemed advisable to present a statement of the plan for labor and extra work which is in operation at the County Prison at Moyamensing; premising, however, that the penal servitude in the County Prison is generally so much less than that in the Penitentiary, that it is found necessary in many particulars to accommodate the assignment of work to the *time* of the prisoner sentenced, as few who come into the prisons have regular occupations, and a six months' sentence does not allow time enough to acquire any trade sufficiently to earn money thereby.

And it may be remarked here, that the civil war which has disturbed our country for more than two years, has cut off one of the most important branches of prison labor, viz., that of cotton weaving, by which hundreds of prisoners could pay all the expense resulting from their incarceration, and often take with them, at the termination of their sentence, more money than they would have *saved* from their earnings, had they been at large, indulging in the evil habits of occasional excessive drinking, and suffering the consequent misery of that delirium which only the inebriate can know.

Cotton weaving, and the preparation of the yarn for the loom, which was once so important a branch of employment, has, as we have already stated, almost ceased to be carried on in this prison. The sound of the shuttle is now scarcely heard where, a few years ago, the continued rattle, in almost every cell, gave notice of profitable industry. It was the custom of the prison, at the time to which we refer, to assign to prisoners a certain fixed task, and to allow them a fair

compensation for over-work, so that a good and industrious weaver generally earned for himself about twelve dollars a month. Of course, he made more for the prison. The return of peace, and the introduction of raw cotton, will, undoubtedly, revive the manufacturing in the prison, and enable many, who now have but small employment, to make their time and their punishment profitable.

The Cordwaining Department has been more active; and in that a different system of labor and compensation prevails.

Here the prisoner is charged two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) a week for his board, to be deducted from the compensation for work actually performed.

The prices allowed for good work are as follows :

|                  |   |   |    |                 |
|------------------|---|---|----|-----------------|
| For sewed boots, | . | . | 45 | cents per pair. |
| " pegged boots,  | . | . | 30 | " " "           |
| " Brogans sewed, | . | . | 35 | " " "           |
| " " pegged,      | . | . | 28 | " " "           |

To those who purchase these articles, the price seems low; yet the average clear profit to each prisoner is about ten dollars a month,—a sum which, under ordinary circumstances, he would scarcely exceed, if at full liberty, with some of those habits that attend the man who is the candidate for, or the graduate of, a prison. Some prisoners considerably exceed ten dollars a month: they are usually not only faster but better workmen.

But, as many of the prisoners are without any trade, (and perhaps they owe their imprisonment in part to a

neglect of some one to give to them a means of acquiring an honest living,) it follows that some time is necessarily consumed in acquiring such a skill in shoemaking as may be turned to their profit in prison, especially when the sentence is not for a long time. But many, it is believed, have made such advance in the art, under personal instructions, as to place them in a position to do some part of the work of their trade, and thus by practice to perfect themselves in a respectable occupation. Too much importance can scarcely be attached to this result, even of a short imprisonment.

Attempts have been made to introduce some kinds of labor for the benefit of prisoners who had short terms of incarceration, or who seemed destitute of abilities to acquire a trade; but these efforts have not been so successful, and, in the present absence of cotton-weaving, some of the convicts remain wholly or nearly unemployed.

In the Female Department there is no regular employment by which labor is compensated in money. The tedium of the cell is relieved by ordinary female work, such as making and mending the clothes of other convicts, and providing clothes for those who seem to require some addition to their clothing, when they leave at certain seasons. There is a considerable demand upon the peculiar talents of these prisoners, and it would seem that if only half the industry (with economy and temperance) were practised out of the prison which they manifest willingly in the cell, they would have no temptation to steal, or to covet their neighbor's goods, "nor anything that is their neighbor's." These

females are, however, not dismissed from the prison without some consideration for their industry. They usually come in with very few clothes. They are dismissed with at least comfortable garments; and if their home is at a distance, means are supplied to reach it. In this matter, also, this Society assigns special duty to its Agent; and in many cases the poor creature who having tasted the pleasures of sound resolutions for the future, begins to feel the terrors of inability, on her departure from the prison, to escape the associations that led her there, is suddenly surprised with the gratifying information that she will be aided by the Society to leave the city, when she leaves the prison, and may abide in the cell, or in some institution or family, till she can be safely "sent home" at the Society's expense.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### UNITED STATES.

We have received reports of various philanthropic societies in the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts. They have mostly in view objects similar to those of this Society: that is, the alleviation of public evils, by direct action upon the minds and consciences of those by whom those evils come.

Among these are the schools in Massachusetts for

alleviating the condition of girls and of boys,—separate institutions, but working admirably in the fulfillment of the designs of the founders.

The Report of the Board of Trustees of the “State Reform Schools of Connecticut” is exceedingly interesting. These last seem, in design, to correspond very much with the “House of Refuge” in this city; and it is gratifying to notice that all of them appear to be in a flourishing condition.

There is one “Report” that specially arrested our attention,—that of the “Massachusetts State Agency for Aiding Discharged Convicts.” Here seems to be a true charity, not dependent, alone, on individual efforts and contributions. It appears, by the Report, that the amount expended by the “Agency,” on account of “the government of the State,” was \$1,656 32. That, of course, as the Agent says, “will meet the discharged convicts’ wants for a brief period.” If we had not extended our Report this year much beyond usual limits, we should feel disposed to copy most of the Report of this Charity into our own Annual Statement. The following, however, is too well put to be omitted :

“Society has a vital interest in a mission that induces the night-burglar to abandon his trade and allow men to sleep in safety, and that converts the felon’s tools into proper implements, and brings his mind and heart into a *willing* frame for house-building instead of *shop-lifting* and house-breaking. We approach an employer, and for *his safety* confide to him our knowledge of the past life and present state of the applicant, now penitent and resolved on reform. By awaking sympathy, we open a door to honest industry, which he enters, and is surrounded by shop-mates, ignorant of his crime, ready to fellowship him without prejudice; so that, feeling safe from those taunts that would

otherwise assail him, and which, surely, have no healing or strengthening power, he becomes inspired with hope, and courage to make self-reliant effort, trusting that, with the added blessing of Heaven, he will henceforward be an honest man."

Many of the Reports which we have received are from State Prisons, Penitentiaries, &c. They, of course, are interesting for the statistics they contain, and will be acceptable to those who are directly interested in, and responsible for, the condition of penal institutions. But we feel naturally more interest in the progress of improvement in the care of the prisoner, than in the cost of his maintenance. It is gratifying to find that, in all these prisons, the voice of instruction is heard, and that, in addition to stated religious exercises, there is personal visitation, and this seems to be followed up by the established preacher or "moral instructor."

The State "Schools" in Massachusetts for rearing, instructing, and reforming girls and boys, not only in separate buildings, but in separate parts of the State, appear to be doing immense good. The reports upon the conduct of many who have graduated from the Schools, show success; and some remarks intimate also, that the failure to reform all, has excited unwelcome criticism. We do not copy the reply: it is exactly what every "visitor" of this Society feels,—it is what the managers of the House of Refuge in this city would say. The largest anticipations of the self-sacrificing philanthropist are not to be realized. The true philosopher will appreciate the benefit to the individual and to society, resulting from a single reformation.

We have received the Eighteenth Annual Report of



the Executive Committee of the Prison Association of New York. It is a clear, explicit statement of the doings of the Agent and Committees of the Association, and will be read with deep interest by those who have a sympathy with the unfortunate and a desire to assist into goodness those that have done wrong. The details of proceedings by the Agent are quite similar to those set forth by Mr. MULLIN, the Agent of our Society, and show a low condition of primary justice in New York, and a wretched state of the lower stratum of society in that city. Tyranny in the small landlords, utter debasement of the moral faculties in the multiplied liquor dealers, and a determination on all hands to do the worst by others and the best (according to their own estimate of good) to themselves, distinguish the condition and conduct of those who in New York live by fleecing the shorn and miserable, and making vice of every kind subservient to their plans of personal profit.

The Report to which we now refer, contains much that is usually presented in the Annual Report of the Inspectors of the Prison. The statements, however, are interesting as showing the condition in New York of those affairs which occupy the attention of our own Society.

We notice one circumstance in the Report of the New York Society worthy of attention, viz., that the agents of that Society have used their influence with the courts to increase the severity of the sentence intended to be pronounced upon a convict. This was justified by a knowledge of the antecedents of the offender, and of the character of his mind. We are

not aware that any interference exactly of that character is to be recorded of those who represent our Society; but we have occasion to believe that in one or two instances an opinion was given *against* a re-consideration of a sentence with a view of lessening its severity; and that opinion was accepted. There was more mercy in such a course than in shortening the term of imprisonment. In one instance, at least, the beneficial results are obvious.

#### GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

After this Annual Report was prepared and accepted by the "Acting Committee" of the Society, there were received from London several volumes of Parliamentary Reports on the condition of the various prisons in England and Ireland in 1862, and also a large folio volume containing "a Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Present State of Discipline in Gaols and Houses of Correction;" together with the proceedings of the Committees, Minutes of Evidence, and an Appendix for 1863. The "Reports" to which allusion is first made, are from the Inspector General of Prisons, and they refer to the condition and operation of all the prisons in each kingdom, and are followed by special Reports from each prison, separately made by the proper officers to the Inspector General. The minuteness of these Reports is truly wonderful. Every authorized movement in each prison is set forth, the discipline and dietetics explained in all their particulars, the accommodations of the inmates, the number of beds

and blankets, and all the minutiae of their management. The exact cost of each branch of supplies is given, and and the character and changes of food for each class.

We note too that in Ireland every prison is supplied with moral and religious teachers, of various denominations. Generally there are one clergyman of the Episcopal Church, one of the Presbyterian Church, and one of the Roman Catholic Church. These seem to devote their services to the moral and religious instruction of those who may, by denominational distinction, belong to their ministry, and each makes an annual report of the moral condition of his charge, and such remarks upon the condition of affairs in the prison as may be the result of his observation. He also gives the number of his visits during the year. They are all salaried officers; each receives from \$150 to \$200 per annum.

The details of the exact condition and number of every article supplied to the prison, show the care that is bestowed upon the stores of the prison; and the tables of the number, condition and offences of the prisoners are instructive to those who would be familiar with prison management, with its cost, and other requirements.

In every part of these Reports is found the reiterated opinion of the visiting officer, (whose experience of many years entitles his views to the greatest respect,) that no good moral results are to be expected from social confinement; nothing but the separate system can be relied on to give moral efficacy to imprisonment for crime.

It is noticed too, that in Great Britain and Ireland,

as in this city, and, we suppose, in most of the large cities of the Union, there is a class of men and women, and especially of the latter, that seem to divide their time between the prison cells, and places of debauchery and preparation for imprisonment. In the Report for the prison in the county of the town of Drogheda, (the district containing eighteen thousand inhabitants,) there are females who are constant "recurrents;" and it is said that, out of those committed during the year 1862, one had been previously in custody ninety-two times, and the rest from twenty-eight to forty-nine times.

Separate Reports are made upon the condition of convict prisons, both in Great Britain and Ireland.

In the Report for common prisons of Great Britain, there is rather less perspicacity, and there seems less attention paid to the details of the institutions. The moral and religious instruction is ordinarily committed to a clergyman of the Established Church; but in most of the Reports it is stated that Dissenting and Catholic prisoners may have the services of clergymen of their own denomination, if they desire it. In Cardiganshire, (Wales,) it is stated, "every facility is given to protestant dissenters for seeing ministers of their several persuasions, but Roman Catholics are unknown in the prison." Whether Catholics are not admitted, or none are sentenced to its cells, or whether the existence of such a denomination is ignored, or whether none are found in that district, it is not stated.

The county and borough jails throughout England seem not to be in the best condition to produce moral improvement.

We may remark here, that the Episcopal Church, being the established denomination in England and Wales, we find all the prisons supplied with a clergyman of that church. So far as that goes, it is laudable, and it may be added, as an additional ground for commendation, that Dissenting and Roman Catholic Clergymen are admitted, when their service is required by prisoners of their denomination. We are not willing to criticise closely, but it would seem that, as visiting clergymen are paid by the public money, and as their office is to awaken as well as to satisfy an appetite for moral and religious instruction, it is scarcely within the limits of Christian charity to make no provision to call dissenters and other prisoners to a sense of duty. And this is the more evident, from the fact that, in Ireland, where only a very small minority are of the Established Church, prisoners of that denomination are supplied with a special religious teacher, as well as those of the other two great divisions. There is, however, in some of the English prisons, a "lecturer, who instructs his hearers not only in moral, but in physical sciences."

It is much however to know that the great truths of religion are taught in the public prisons of England, and it is more to know that there are many willing learners, who, without this means of improvement, would remain in ignorance, if not of religious truths, at least of the necessity and advantage of receiving and practising them.

The Report of the Directors of the Convict Prisons of Ireland, is interesting to those who feel desirous, in

this country, to do all the good possible to convicts. The very great proportion of inhabitants of Ireland who are not of the "Established Church," makes it necessary to give officially, religious and moral instruction by clergymen of different denominations, and hence we find that the development of the true state of the prisons, includes the Annual Reports of the Clergy of the Episcopal and the Roman Catholic Churches, and of that denomination of Dissenters which has probably the largest number in the prison, or which can most easily supply from the neighborhood, a clergyman to lead religious service. And we learn from the Reports of the different clergy, that religious service, according to the requirements of the several denominations represented by the clergymen, are held twice on every Sunday and recognized religious holiday, and that the usual instruction in doctrine and morals is also given to classes; all, of course, without interference with each other.

In many respects these Parliamentary Reports may be regarded as of more consequence to Boards of Prison Inspectors, than to the "Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," as they set forth the economy of the institutions, the discipline, the means of comfort, and the character of employment, as well as the results of all these, and the exact cost; and thus they may become useful as indicative of what Boards of Inspectors should carefully shun or promptly adopt, with such modifications and adaptations as difference of circumstances renders necessary.

But, in Great Britain and Ireland, much of the labor

assumed by the Philadelphia "Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," is undertaken by the Government; and the closeness of the investigation of their affairs, and the fulness of the Reports, are consequent upon the interest which philanthropic individuals have awakened throughout the country, and the action which has been secured by both Houses of Parliament. The great volume of Reports of the action of "a committee of the House of Lords" is of deep interest, even in this country, as showing not merely the condition of certain great prisons, but as illustrating, especially, the effect of different systems of treatment and labor. The elevated rank of the persons who composed the commission of inquiry, shows the importance which the House of Lords attached to the subject; and the constancy of attendance, and the searching character of questions put to those under examination, show the fidelity of the distinguished noblemen to the interests submitted to their care.\*

Of the five hundred and twelve folio pages of these Reports, there is not one that is without interest to every active member of this Society. There are 5,337 questions propounded by the various members of the commission, and answers rendered by those who have been in the administration of the prisons, or who had been exercising the duties of visitors, inspectors, phy-

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\* The select committee consisted of the Duke of Marlborough, Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Steward, Earl of Carnarvon, (who was elected Lord President,) Earl of Malmsbury, Earl of Romney, Earl Cathcart, Earl of Ducie, Earl of Dudley, Viscount Eversley, Lord Wodehouse, Lord Lyvedon, Duke of Richmond, Lord Wensleydale.

sicians, &c., of the several prisons; and those answers present a most minute exhibit of the exact state of the prisons, and all that relates to their administration.

In some of the prisons, we find that there is a physician employed at *seventy-five* dollars a year, and that he visits twice a week.

So far as we have examined the Dietary of the different prisons in Great Britain and Ireland, we find some meals enriched with meat, in England, but none, as far as we discover, in Ireland. Prisoners are weighed, and their provisions augmented or improved, or diminished in quantity and quality, according as their weight increases or decreases. And the kind of labor is changed to suit their health and weight. They must require much personal supervision. Ale, wine and brandy are used in the prisons, when the prisoner is under medical treatment; and it would seem, from some Reports, that medical treatment was more frequently called for in the prisons where such indulgences are prescribed. It may be remarked here, also, that consideration is given to the previous *habits*, and pursuits of prisoners, when they enter, and the diet, with regard to meat and ale, somewhat modified by the amount which had been used before conviction.

The Committee are decided in their views of the necessity of uniformity in discipline, dress and food, in the prisons of Great Britain; and as, geographically considered, the kingdom is small, with little variety of climate or produce, such a desideratum may be easily supplied. We cannot hope for anything like an attempt at uniformity in our Federal Government; but there



appears no immovable obstacle to a uniform system of prison discipline and practice in this State. But that cannot be hoped for, till there is a general knowledge of its wants. This will probably be the result of the establishment generally in this State of County Societies, auxiliary to the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.

One spirit pervades all the Reports of the Noble Committee, and it is aroused and sustained by the answers to questions propounded by them to the Inspectors and other officers appointed to look after the economy and discipline of the prisons of all kinds throughout the kingdom, and that is *the entire necessity of the separate confinement of the convicts*, and the full belief that the same kind of treatment would be beneficial, so far as time would permit, for every class of prisoners. They distinguish between solitary and separate confinement. The former is recommended as a prison punishment,—the latter as a system of regular treatment. On this subject the Committee say, as a result of the testimony taken before them: “Where separate confinement exists, it exercises both a reformatory and deterrent effect. The committee are of opinion that the principle of separation should be made to pervade the entire system of the prison.” And while they do not admit that the adoption of the system need cause any relaxation of the rule in school or chapel, and at exercise, they intimate that the “*celular* instruction” (as they denominate what we have in our Report spoken of as religious and moral instruction in and at the door of the cells) should not be relaxed.

It will be understood that the attempts at separate confinement in England have, in some places, been made by an effort to accommodate the old borough and county prisons to the new system. Poor as the chance of success might appear, it is worthy of remark, that the results satisfy both the Inspectors and the Noble Committee, that that it is the true system of penal and reformatory imprisonment. On that subject the Committee say they "consider that the system generally known as the separate system must now be accepted as the foundation of prison discipline, and that its rigid maintenance is a vital principle in the efficiency of county and borough jails."

This sentiment pervades the whole Report, and is suggested and sustained by the testimony of all those who were under examination before the Committee.

It is a subject of regret that we cannot copy at length the testimony of some of the witnesses called before the Committee of the House of Lords: we however find one question, with an answer thereto, that is too direct to be omitted.

1757. Question by the *Earl of Carnarvon*.

You have given the Committee one instance, and we have heard from another witness that the reputation of Leicester Gaol has a deterring effect; can you give the Committee any reason why you think it is more deterring than some other prisons?

Answer by *William Musson, Esq.*, Governor of Leicester Gaol.

I think that our system of discipline is very strict; we never allow the separate system to be broken through on any consideration; the prisoners are in separate cells; they are exercised in separate yards, and they have separate stalls at Chapel; and I may say that when they

are taken out to be tried in Court, they go in separate partitions in the wagon, and are arraigned separately.

1758. By *Earl of Dudley*. Is not the separation relaxed when they are with the schoolmaster in class?

No; they are separated then.

1759. Do they not sit at the same table?

No: they are in the Chapel in separate stalls; we use the Chapel as a school-room.

1785. *Earl of Carnarvon*. In your opinion, the advantage of separation outweighs any inconveniences which may result from it?

Yes; I think so.

1786. *Lord Wodehouse*. Do you ever find that prisoners when confined for long periods in separate cells, suffer at all mentally from the separation?

There is a great variety of minds, and it does not influence all alike.

In another part of our Report for this year, it has been stated that much good, it is believed, has been done to individuals, by meeting the prisoners on their arrival in the van, and releasing those committed for the first time, provided that it is apparent that they have not been frequent offenders, and have not chosen the path of vice; and it is stated that by this course the self-respect of many young persons has been saved, and they have been snatched from a vicious course, which would scarcely have been avoided had they been confined with old offenders. And when the power to release did not rest with the Inspectors, the Agent was at once despatched to procure the release of the committed person; and that failing, care has been used to place the novices in separate cells, and provide them with advice, books,

and some little work. On this subject we have the opinions of the Inspectors of Prisons for the North and Middle districts of England.

2156. By the *Duke of Marlborough*. You stated that you did not think short sentences of much avail in effecting reformation upon a prisoner; but do you not think that short punishments may be a deterrent?

No; I think that a man who is sent to prison for seven days or twenty days or a month, becomes marked, and he is not in prison long enough to enable him to exercise an influence for good over him.

2157. Take the case of a man who has not been accustomed to vice or crime, and who finds himself in prison for a month for an offence into which he has been hurried, and finds the prison to be a very unpleasant thing, and the discipline to be very severe, and that he is subjected to a great many things which he did not expect before he entered the prison, do you not think that the recollection of that month's confinement may have a deterring effect upon that man in future?

I think that to a man of the character which your Grace has described, a month's imprisonment would do more harm than good. If that man escaped the taint of a prison, and was bound over under certain securities, he would be more likely to turn out well than if he had been subject to the discipline of the prison for months; it is too short a period in itself to have any deterring effect on him.

In another part of the Report of this Committee of the House of Lords we have a statement of what is understood by separate confinement.

2662. Separate from what?

Man from man; they never see each other to know each other or to speak to each other.

2663. By the separate system you only mean separation of prisoner from prisoner?

Just so.

2664. Not the secluded system in which a man is shut up entirely ?  
No ; quite the contrary.

2665. I ask the question in order that your answer may be recorded here, for this simple reason, that a great many people have an idea that the separate system is simply a secluding of the prisoners entirely ; whereas, the separate system is only, as you have stated in your answer, the separation of prisoner from prisoner ?

Yes ; from all evil communications.

In reply to a remark by the *Earl of Dudley*, that the prisoners daily saw several officers of the prison, and occasionally others, it is said,

“Just so. The *solitary* system does not exist in England.”

We are struck with the statement of general health in some of the prisons in England ; for example the Bristol Gaol. T. A. Gardon, Esq., Governor of that prison, in his testimony before the Committee of the House of Lords, says : “During the time that I have been Governor—twenty-six years—we have never lost a female prisoner ; and we do not lose more than one male prisoner in twelve months. Those that we have lost came to us, perhaps, in the last stage of consumption. I do not know one single case that has been taken ill on the premises and died. The average number of prisoners is one hundred and sixty.”

The whole of the Parliamentary Reports, as has already been stated, came to hand after the preparation of this Annual Report, and its submission to, and acceptance by, the Acting Committee of the Society ; so that it was inconvenient to swell the publication by extracts from the British Report, even where matters

of interest were explained at length ; and to supply as far as possible the want of those extracts, digests of some of the Report and statements have been made, which, with all deference to the economy of space, must have swelled the division of the report in which they should appear much beyond what may be regarded as a fair proportion. It will be well to recollect when we read the strong testimony which the Governors and Inspectors of gaols in Great Britain bear to the superior efficacy of the system of separate confinement ; that as yet in many of these gaols they are working with old edifices only partially adapted to the new system, and they are in a state of transition from the old system of physical to that of moral discipline. They see and feel the means of good which are almost within their reach, but they have to approach them slowly, respecting the established opinions of a portion of the community, while they follow as far as possible, the suggestions of the better informed. They will soon make the public sentiment by which they will be sustained in their work of tempering justice with mercy, and rendering punishment for offences the means of reforming the offender.



## NOTICE OF DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS.

In treating of what this Society has done, we are compelled to pause and record a part of what it has been called to suffer in the loss of its active members in the past year.

## REV. C. R. DEMMÉ.

We have to deplore the death of the Rev. C. R. Demmé, D. D., Pastor of the German Church in north Fourth Street, who for many years made the Eastern Penitentiary the scene of his most welcome and profitable labors. His great desire was to do good to his fellow man; and Providence that lighted up that wish in his heart, blessed him with a sound judgment, as to the choice of objects on which his gifts and acquirements would be best exercised, and the selection of time and means for his ministration. He knew how repulsive usually is the convict's cell to those of his vocation; and he felt also how important to those who would be useful there, is a knowledge of modern languages; and especially did he resolve to devote himself to those of his own country, (Germany,) whom he could approach by many avenues which love of the "Father land" opens to the heart. And many who heard his kind monitions, lived to bless his benevolence. He was a man of steady and well regulated zeal, devoid of ostentation; practical in all his plans, and eminently useful in his labor in concurrence with this Society.

## JACOB T. BUNTING.

In the month of December, Jacob T. Bunting, an old and active member of this Society, died. He was known to his acquaintances as one that had at heart the good of his fellow men; and in this Society he was recognized as a hearty co-operator in the good work of alleviating

the miseries of prisons. Earnest in his efforts to discharge his duties at the cells of the prisoners; he sat in council with us, awaiting rather the judgment of others, than attempting to enforce his own opinions, yet influencing by his experience, and conciliating by his courteous deference. The Society feels and mourns the loss of such a member. Mr. Bunting was in his seventy-first year.

#### TOWNSEND SHARPLESS.

On Wednesday, the 30th of December, died Townsend Sharpless, one of the Vice-Presidents of this Society.

There are men who seem formed to discharge a certain class of duties, beyond which they lack zeal and fail of efficiency. But Townsend Sharpless seemed to fulfil the injunction of Scripture, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do with thy might." In business or rational recreation, in works of general benevolence, in the councils and labor of this Society, he was constant, zealous and successful. No half-way measures satisfied his plans, or gratified his wishes. He satisfied himself first that the work was one of benevolence, and then he made it a duty, and discharged it. In the walks of business there was no man who seemed better to understand the whole routine of trade, and few were ever more devoted, or more successful. As a philanthropist the same zeal, the same method secured equal success to his labors. And warm-hearted in his friendship, his social relations were of the most pleasing and gratifying kind.

The Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public



Prisons, then, in referring to the death of such a member, feel that they have lost in the demise of Townsend Sharpless, a valued member, a respected Vice-President, an exemplary merchant, a useful citizen, and a practical philanthropist.

As the Scriptures inform us that it is "well with the righteous," we have only to mourn in the death of our several valued colleagues, our personal deprivations, and the loss which the cause of humanity sustains in the withdrawal from its labors of men whose experience gave weight to their counsel, and efficiency to their labors. The starred names of our muster-roll show how much of purity, piety, zeal and judgment have been vouchsafed to this Society. The cause in which they labored is transmitted to our hands. In addition to their motive to stimulate us, we have their bright examples by which to direct our course and regulate our conduct.

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## CONCLUSION.

The Society looks back with much gratification upon its labors. The existing active members feel how much they owe to the philanthropic efforts of the founders of the Association, and to those, who, having exerted themselves with corresponding zeal in the good cause, have bequeathed to men of this day the *improved* work, and

the augmented duties. Every point gained develops the resources of humanity, while it presents new objects for its exercise. How prisons are conducted, and how prisoners are treated, where there is no voluntary organization to alleviate their suffering, history and the report of travelers tell. Undoubtedly religion meliorates the condition of the incarcerated, whether his offence be vice or crime; but religion supplies itself with means and instruments for its holy work, and we look for good results only where there have been corresponding means. To find the effects of unalleviated punishment upon tried offenders, is not necessary to look far back, into ages which the world calls "dark," because light was less diffused than at present; it is only to seek the nation or community where arbitrary power not only inflicts the wrong of too severe punishment, but, by its terrors, prevents the suggestion and adoption of means by the humane which may lessen the effect of the severity, by keeping between the sufferer and the world a connection of feeling and sympathy that will lead him to resolve some good when the punishment for the bad shall have been all inflicted, which shall make him feel, indeed, that this will be a use to him of virtue, and that he may hereafter have a reward in the recognition of its existence in him by the society to which he may be spared. Seek the government that understands by criminal law only the punishment of the guilty, and we shall see that authority seizes the violator of its enactments or decrees, and treats him as if all of humanity had perished in him with the conception of his

crime, and, dragging him from the decencies, the enjoyments and the hopes of society, it

Chains him, and tasks him, and exacts his sweat  
With stripes, that mercy, with a bleeding heart,  
Weeps when she sees inflicted on a beast.

The difference between that mode of dealing with the convict and the lesser evil, that of allowing him to perish in inactivity, and acquire strength in bad resolves, and instruction for future crimes, is what policy and unaided humanity have wrought out of the condition of the offender. The difference between the latter condition and that of the inmates of the Philadelphia County Prison, and especially the Eastern Penitentiary, is what results from the labor of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Prisons. It is something, in the first contrast, that the convict has a prison; it is more, in the latter, that the prison is made a school of physical and moral reform.

To have been instrumental in working out such a difference is an occasion for felicitation and thankfulness, even though there be felt a consciousness that with such objects so well defined, and means so complete, much less has been done to alleviate the miseries of prisons, and arouse the attention of society to the good work, than might have been hoped for. But a work of this kind once begun, must, of course, go on. The hands that are now stretched forth may lose their power, but others will be employed; and year by year, as we have seen, so shall we see, volunteers dedicating themselves to a duty which, though painful and often repulsive, has with it the

promise of reward from Him who by precept and example devolved it upon us.

The important work of convincing society that it has a greater interest in the reformation of a public offender, than in his punishment, or that it is its true interest to make his punishment a means of his reformation, must not be allowed to fail for want of efforts or advocacy. The great work of demonstrating the truth that crimes are multiplied by the companionship of the culpable, must be forwarded. The construction of prisons, and the administration of their affairs, must still be carefully considered as one of the great objects, a leading object of this Society, and a means of alleviating existing miseries.

The discipline, the labor, the compensation of prisoners, must have constant attention; and the results of investigations and experiments be made public, for the promotion of the great object of this Society.

The great work of establishing auxiliaries to the Society must be carried forward with prudent zeal, so that, by co-operation, the labors of all who unite with us in objects and views, may be more effective; and, indeed, that we may by argument and illustration, increase the number of those who unite with us in object and views.

We must augment our correspondence also, that we may fully understand the plans and labours of philanthropists in other States and other nations, and make them comprehend our own views, and the means by which we seek to accomplish our object.

All these considerations, and others that seem to

regard the physical condition of prisoners, must continue to occupy the attention of our members, and chiefly because, through those physical aids, we are to reach his moral life. But with all these efforts towards the instruments of good, we must continue, with unwavering, with augmented exertion, our endeavors to reach *directly* the hearts and consciences of those whom we would benefit. To do this effectively, we must have patience, as well as good will,—we must *endure*, as well as *do*: we must *learn* the great lesson of *teachers*, before we undertake the business of instruction; we must feel it the great duty to ourselves, and our mission, to “bear and forbear.” We must learn to labor and to wait,—to bestow our toil this day and every day, but to look at a distance for the reward of our efforts, in the fixed reformation of its objects, and to be “instant in season and out of season,” to admonish, advise, induce and encourage. The experience of those who have spent years at the doors of the prison cells, is not that of multiplied fruits. The value of a single soul must be fully appreciated, that the one redeemed from vice may be regarded as a consolation for the hundreds that make no improvement from efforts in their behalf. In short, we must find our pleasure in the discharge of a duty, and leave to Him, whose commands we obey, to give the increase for which we labor.

We may spend days and weeks, as indeed many have spent months, in seeking to awaken the conscience of the hardened offender to the evils of his course, and arousing him to the danger of their tendencies; and when the object of this solicitude shall have passed from our

care, and ceased to hear our lessons, we may hear of him in the midst of debauchery and villainies, apparently ten-fold more a child of the devil than when we sought to soften his heart, and succeeded in raising his tears in the criminal cell. This is the experience of all who undertake to reclaim those who are hardened in crime or steeped in vice. But are we, on that account, to relinquish our labors or to forego hope? Are we to say that this backsliding is the last of the seventy times seven, and therefore we may stand excused from further effort? That very backsliding ought to be expected. The return of the offender to his offence is in the course of the timid, half-repentant wrong-doer, we know. We see it in regard to amendments of life that have relation to private interests and individual character. We must look for it in those who have for a long time cast off respect for social proprieties and wholesome regard to statute laws. The probability that few to whom we address ourselves in the cells of the incarcerated will give much heed to our exhortations, and their liability to return to their ways of sin and shame, notwithstanding their apparent desire to accept our ministration and profit by the means of improvement which we present, are known to us all before we enter upon the service. We accept the appointment with a knowledge of the difficulties it presents. We receive the mission to those whom the schoolmaster and the preacher have failed to influence to good; and we are to thank God for even the small returns from our laborious gleanings, rather than to arraign his providence or dishonor our pursuit by complaining of small returns.

Charites have their grades, and they are entitled to commendation not always for the amount of benefit they have conferred, or the number that they have assisted, but rather from a consideration of the difficulties they encounter, and the spirit in which they are conducted.

Colleges and schools have received and instructed the sound minded at all times, and the asylums for the insane and the orphan have been working wonderful good among the mentally afflicted and the fatherless children; but it was left for the present age to see men of character and science stooping to the wants of the idiot, and by painful, protracted labor and unheard of patience, irritate into some kind of life, the low faculties of the mentally infirm, and call into usefulness and love, those who had been condemned, by universal judgment, to helpless idiocy. And if this is going on in our midst,—if the wretched, drivelling child, whose mind and body seems to be given over to utter helplessness, can be and is called into profitable exercise and lofty accountability, shall we hesitate to dedicate some portion of our time to the reformation and right direction of those whose physical powers are all that vice has left them, or whose sense of responsibility to God and man is only clouded by the indulgence of vicious appetites, or deadened by a repetition of those enormities which make a sense of responsibility a curse? It is most true, as is often asserted by those who have some experience of the faithlessness of a prisoner's promises, that few who seem to listen with respect to moral instruction at the doors of their cells, ever carry into

execution their solemn promises. The state which made them contemplate and promise reformation is changed, and they seem to feel released from their pledges. They have before them a sense of the degradation to which their vices have reduced them, and they shrink from a contemplation of a perpetuation of that degradation. They feel that they stand in the presence of those whose superior moral or social position is only the result of superior virtue, and they think it easy to check the appetites whose indulgence is vice, when the reward is near. They promise, and they go forth into a world that remembers only their follies or their crimes. The means of gratifying their appetites are available, virtue is difficult, because the rewards are postponed; and while they are in probation with their best friends, and under condemnation among the many, they have fewer present inducements to virtue than they had thought, and so they fall back into the very faults which had made them prisoners before, and which send them again to the cells with drunkards and vagrants, who harden them into shamelessness.

But are we to forbear to seek to reform because they have failed to keep their promise? Are we to cease to advise kindly, and warn earnestly because they have again yielded to their degraded and vitiated taste? Shall we say that this man or that woman has shown himself or herself irreclaimable, and therefore we will spend no more time, no more kindness, on such an one? Who shall say that all is lost while life remains? Who shall say that the seeds of moral truth are dead in his



heart because they have not yet germinated? How long vitality remains in vegetable seeds we all know. Shall there be less vitality in the seeds of moral truth? The wild grass grows, the useless weed, or the poisonous plant springs up into life, and seems to invoke and warrant entire condemnation of the soil; but let these be cut down, and how often come forth the sweet herb and the profitable grass, whose seeds have lain dormant while those profitless or poisonous productions were covering the surface. At some later day, in some season of great emergency, some hour of bitter trial, truths that seemed to have fallen profitless on the heart of the miserable prisoner, may come forth and bless with usefulness and peace the few closing days of a life that has been heretofore dedicated to folly and vice. Let us, then, sow the seeds by all waters; let us not withhold, morning or evening, our hands; and, when we have reason to believe that these seeds have found a place in the consenting mind of the listener, let us water them with the refreshing influences of our experience, and warm them into growth by that affection which is the basis of true philanthropy. It is thus we may alleviate the miseries of prisons, and make the criminal's cell the vestibule to the temple of virtue and piety.

In conclusion, let it be repeated with emphasis, that we are not to be driven from our efforts at personal reformation, by any failure of the prisoner to justify, in liberty, the hopes which he had warranted while in confinement. As often as he returns to his cell, he should return to our care,—our instruction. The last

resolve may be permanent. The last "repentance may be unto life, never to be repented of." And we shall have occasion, perhaps, in our observations upon life, to conclude that the best of mankind will find the fruition of their highest hopes less in the amount of their inno-  
cency than in the frequency of their repentance.

JAMES J. BARCLAY,

*President.*

JOHN J. LYTLE, *Secretary.*

PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 1864

---

## LIFE MEMBERS.

ON PAYMENT OF TWENTY DOLLARS AND UPWARDS.

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## CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

---

- Senor Soldan, Peru, South America.  
 John S. Richards, Reading, Berks Co., Pennsylvania.  
 Hon. Townsend Haines, West Chester, Chester Co., "  
     " Andrew G. Curtin, Harrisburg, Dauphin " "  
     " Charles W. Higgins, Pottsville, Schuylkill " "  
     Charles Lott, Lottsville, Warren " "  
     Morris C. Jones, Bethlehem, Northampton " "  
     Henry Eckroid, Muncy, Lycoming " "  
     George Willits, Catawissa, Columbia " "  
     Wm. A. Thomas, Bellefonte, Centre " "  
 Dr. David, Copenhagen, Denmark, Europe.  
     Robert Smeal, Glasgow, Scotland.  
 Rev. E. C. Winis, New York.  
 Hon. John Princkle Jones, Reading, Berks Co, Pennsylvania.  
     " John Nesbit Cunningham, Wilksbarre, Luzerne Co., Penna.  
     " Warren J. Woodward, Reading, Berks Co., Pennsylvania.  
     " Henry G. Long, Lancaster, Lancaster " "  
     " A. L. Hays, " " " "  
     " John Peirson, Harrisburg, Dauphin " "  
 Dr John Atlee, Lancaster, Lancaster " "  
     William J. Allinson, Burlington, New Jersey.

*E. C. W.*  
*6/7/27*

#### ARTICLE IV.

The Treasurer shall keep the moneys and securities, and pay orders of the Society or of the Acting Committee, signed by the presiding officer and Secretary; and shall present a statement of the condition of the finances of the Society at each stated meeting thereof.

All bequests, donations, and life-subscriptions shall be invested; only the income thereof to be applied to the expenses of the Society.

#### ARTICLE V.

The Acting Committee shall consist of the officers of the Society, ex-officio, and fifty other members. They shall be in prison at least twice a month, inquire into the conduct of the prisoners, and report such abuses as they find. They shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings, which shall be submitted at every stated meeting of the Society. They shall be authorized to fill vacancies occurring in their ranks arising from death, or removal from the Society, or inability or neglect to visit the prisons in accordance with the regulations. They shall also have the sole power of appointing members.

#### ARTICLE VI.

Candidates for membership may be proposed by the Society or of the Acting Committee; but no nomination shall take place within ten days after such nomination. Every member shall pay an annual contribution of two dollars, or twenty dollars at any one time shall constitute membership.

#### ARTICLE VII.

Honorary members may be elected at such times as the Society may deem expedient.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

The Society shall hold stated meetings on the fourth day of the month (Thursday) in the months called January, April, July, and October, of whom seven shall constitute a quorum.

#### ARTICLE IX.

No alterations of the Constitution shall be made, unless the same shall have been proposed at a stated meeting of the Society, held not less than a month previous to the adoption of such alterations. All questions shall be decided, where there is no division, by a majority of votes; in those where the Society is equally divided, the presiding officer shall have the casting vote.



# OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY. 1864.

PRESIDENT,—JAMES J. BARCLAY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS, { WILLIAM SHIPPEN, M. D.  
JOSEPH R. CHANDLER,

TREASURER,—EDWARD H. BONSALE.

SECRETARIES, { JOHN J. LYTLE,  
EDWARD TOWNSEND.

COUNSELLORS, { HENRY J. WILLIAMS,  
CHARLES GIBBONS.

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William S. Perot,  
Thomas Latimer,  
John M. Wetherill,  
Abram C. Brown,  
Benjamin H. Pitfield,  
James E. Kaighn,  
Alfred H. Love,  
Jeremiah Willits,  
William H. Burr,  
George Taber,  
William L. J. Kiderlen,  
Mahlon H. Dickinson,  
William Ingram,

James Peters,  
Robert E. Evans,  
Charles Palmer,  
Charles P. Perot,  
Abram Martin,  
Wm. Armstrong, M. D.,  
William Nicholson,  
Charles W. Funk,  
Philip P. Randolph,  
Samuel Townsend,  
Albert G. Roland,  
Benj. H. Shoemaker,  
Lewis C. Neuman,  
Wm. Warner Caldwell,

Henry Perkins,  
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John H. Watt,  
George Milliken,  
John Klein,  
Theodore Treadwell.

## *Visiting Committee on the Eastern Penitentiary.*

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William H. Burr,  
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William L. J. Kiderlen,  
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James Peters,  
Robert E. Evans,  
William R. MacAdam,  
Charles Palmer,  
William Nicholson,  
Charles W. Funk,  
Samuel Townsend,

Albert G. Roland,  
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Thomas A. Robinson,  
John Klein.

WILLIAM J. MULLEN is Agent of the County Prison, appointed by the Inspectors, and acting under their direction, and also appointed by the Society.

NEW SERIES.]

[NO. 4.

THE JOURNAL  
OF  
PRISON DISCIPLINE  
AND  
PHILANTHROPY.

PUBLISHED ANNUALLY  
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR  
ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS,"  
INSTITUTED 1787.

JANUARY, 1865.

PHILADELPHIA:  
J. B. CHANDLER, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,  
Nos. 306 AND 308 CHESTNUT STREET.  
1865.

# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

## Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.

When we consider that the obligations of benevolence which are founded on the precepts and examples of the Author of Christianity, are not cancelled by the follies or crimes of our fellow-creatures; and when we reflect upon the miseries which penury, hunger, cold, unnecessary severity, unwholesome apartments, and guilt (the usual attendants of prisons,) involve with them, it becomes us to extend our compassion to that part of mankind who are the subjects of those miseries. By the aid of humanity, their undue and illegal sufferings may be prevented; the links which should bind the whole family of mankind together, under all circumstances, be preserved unbroken; and such degrees and modes of punishment may be discovered and suggested, as may, instead of continuing habits of vice, become the means of restoring our fellow-creatures to virtue and happiness. From a conviction of the truth and obligation of these principles, the subscribers have associated themselves under the title of "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS."

For effecting these purposes, they have adopted the following CONSTITUTION.

### ARTICLE I.

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, two Counsellors, and an Acting Committee; all of whom shall be chosen at the stated meeting to be held in the first month (January) of each year, and shall continue in office until their successors are elected; but in case an election, from any cause, shall not be then held, it shall be the duty of the President to call a special meeting of the Society within thirty days, for the purpose of holding such election, of which at least three days notice shall be given.

### ARTICLE II.

The President shall preside in all meetings, and subscribe all public acts of the Society. He may call special meetings whenever he may deem it expedient; and shall do so when requested in writing by five members. In his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents may act in his place.

### ARTICLE III.

The Secretaries shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the Society, and shall conduct its correspondence.

NEW SERIES.

NO. IV.

THE JOURNAL

OF

PRISON DISCIPLINE

AND

PHILANTHROPY.

PUBLISHED ANNUALLY

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR  
ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS,"  
INSTITUTED 1787.

JANUARY, 1865.

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J. B. CHANDLER, PRINTER, 306 & 308 CHESTNUT STREET.  
1865.

**JUN 24 1927**

# CONTENTS.

---

|                                              | PAGE |
|----------------------------------------------|------|
| REPORT, - - - - -                            | 3    |
| EASTERN PENITENTIARY, - - - - -              | 8    |
| COUNTY PRISON, - - - - -                     | 13   |
| STATE AGENCY, - - - - -                      | 21   |
| LOCAL AGENCY, - - - - -                      | 27   |
| MORAL INSTRUCTION, - - - - -                 | 32   |
| AUXILIARIES, - - - - -                       | 35   |
| INSANE, - - - - -                            | 40   |
| HOUSE OF CORRECTION, - - - - -               | 48   |
| INTEMPERANCE, - - - - -                      | 51   |
| MAGISTRACY, - - - - -                        | 52   |
| MEMBERS, - - - - -                           | 54   |
| CORRESPONDENCE, - - - - -                    | 55   |
| PARDON, - - - - -                            | 58   |
| WORK FOR WOMEN AND WOMEN FOR WORK, - - - - - | 77   |
| CONCLUSION, - - - - -                        | 87   |
| LIST OF ACTIVE MEMBERS FROM 1787, - - - - -  | 101  |
| CORRESPONDING MEMBERS, - - - - -             | 114  |
| APPENDIX, - - - - -                          | 118  |



*Rooms of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating }  
the Miseries of Public Prisons. }*

At a meeting of the Acting Committee of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, held on the evening of the First Month, (January) 19th, 1865, the Editorial Board, (appointed to take charge of the Journal and papers, and the Annual Report,) consisting of Joseph R. Chandler, James J. Barclay, Edward H. Bonsall, James M. Corse, M. D., and the Rev. J. H. Beckwith, presented the Annual Report, which being read by the Chairman, was considered and approved, and ordered to be transmitted to the Society.

At the Annual Meeting of the Society, held First Month, (January) 26th, 1865, the Report of the Acting Committee was presented, and after consideration, was referred back to the Acting Committee, with instructions to cause the whole (or such parts thereof as might be deemed best) to be printed in the usual form, with any other matter that should be deemed advisable.

At a meeting of the Acting Committee, held First Month, (January) 31st, 1865, it was ordered that the Annual Report, signed by the President and Secretary, be referred to the members by whom it was prepared, with instructions to cause a suitable number of copies thereof to be printed.

JOHN J. LYTLE, *Secretary.*





## REPORT.

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THE advent of a new year renders necessary a report of the proceedings of the "Acting Committee," to which is delegated the labors of the "Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons."

It is proper, then, to give an account of what has been done and how it has been done, to those by whose authority action is had, and by whose contributions, physical and moral benefits have been conferred.

A critical view of the statement of labors performed by the active members, will enable the contributors, who are not active, to judge of the nature and usefulness of proceedings, and, by approval, to mark for repetition those proceedings which are deemed worthy of the views of the founders of the Institution and consistent with all the improvements that have resulted from the labors of the Society. Nor should it be deemed inconsistent with courtesy, that where, by misapprehension, by excessive zeal, or by a want of energy, an effect has been caused inconsistent with the plans of the Society, such a disapproval of the action, or want of action, should be expressed as will show that a watchful eye is on the proceedings of the Committee. That expression of want of entire approval will, however, be marked with a spirit of Christian gentleness that shall encourage to

improvement rather than retard efforts. What is passed is only useful as suggesting perseverance in good or correction of error. The proceedings of the last twelve months are now with the events of "years beyond the Flood." A report upon them will be the means of judging of their benefit and of enabling the Society hereafter to refer to them for precedent for proceedings, or to cite them as instances of errors to be corrected. Good or bad, useful or worthless, they are the life and character of the Society for one year. What the Society *does* is what it *is*. It has no claim to consideration beyond its efficiency. The mere droning away of inoperative existence is not *to be*, because it is not *to be* what it was intended to be. Has the Society in the year 1864 lessened the miseries of public prisons beyond the operation of the officers by law appointed to retain, feed and clothe the prisoner? Has the Society, by its agents, awakened the incarcerated culprit to a sense of his consequence as a man, and a feeling of degradation from his faults? Has the Society elevated, in any instance, imprisonment of the criminal from a penal to a moral discipline, and substituted thought, contemplation and wholesome resolve, for recklessness and determination to evil? Has the public offender left the convict cell with a determination to do good, and found that determination seconded and its end secured by a chosen retreat beyond ordinary temptation to vice, and especially to that failing which did most easily beset him? Has the Society, in seeking to extend its means of doing good to the prisoner, inquired into the administration of the prisons of the Commonwealth beyond

those over which it has assumed a moral watch? Has the Society, surveying the effects of its own labors, sought to accommodate its exertions to the improvement which under Providence it has wrought, and elevated and extended its views with the enlargement of its own horizon? Has the Society kept bright the links in the great chain of philanthropy by which it is connected with other similar institutions, and thus received and imparted encouragement in the work of good common to them, and gathered and given that information which is so valuable as the result of sound practical experience? Has the Society been earnest in the discharge of the duty implied in the Apostolic injunction "to do good and communicate?"

These are questions which are, it is believed, pertinent, in a review of an Association which claims an existence of nearly four score years; and it is the concern of the "ACTING COMMITTEE" how these queries shall be answered to the parent Society, and how those answers may illustrate the labors of the Committee and the object of the Society, how they may satisfy those who, unable to give their personal services to the work of the Association, do nevertheless promote its ends by liberal contributions and supply some of the means by which the miseries of the prisoner are alleviated; and how, in an especial manner, they may satisfy the Legislators of the State that the consideration which they have from time to time given the Society, has been of public benefit, and the encouragement they may yet be induced to give shall produce good to the people who are represented in the Legislative body—good, by cor-

recting existing evils and opening up channels to future benefits—good to the humble vicious poor, by restraining vice—good to the honest, virtuous laborer, by lessening his anxiety for his children in their associations abroad, good to the opulent, by diminishing the taxes which are consequent on unrestrained crime, nurtured by physical restraints without moral discipline—good to the christian philanthropist, by ensuring that moral discipline which incarceration renders easy, and good to the sound political economist, who is shocked at the public waste which individual crime ensures, and is disgusted with the inefficiency of prison correction that varies with every county in the State, and makes the relaxation of discipline and the withholding of admissible comforts, the means of personal profit to the guardian of the convicts and the vicious. What the Society has done and tried to do in these directions may be gathered from the succeeding statement: though circumstances render it proper that the Report this year should be less particular and extensive than that for the year 1863; not because the labors have been less, or the field diminished; on the contrary, while the prisons of our city have had their customary provision of visitors, those in almost every county in the State have been visited. The result of those visits will be the subject of a particular division of the Report.

## EASTERN PENITENTIARY.

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The statistics which relate more directly to the peculiar economy of the State Penitentiary, and which are hence most interesting to the world, are those that belong to the Reports of the Board of Inspectors. But the philanthropist will feel interested in the reports of the labors of those who seek to reach the conduct of the prisoner through his conscience and his affections; and hence others, beside the members of the Society, will read with pleasure a concise statement of the kind and amount of labors performed by the Committee on the Penitentiary, which the Society annually appoints.

We reserve commentaries on the character and importance of the work of the committee till we speak of the labors at the County Prison, observing only for the present, that various circumstances make the Penitentiary a field of more pleasant and hopeful employment than the County Prison can offer. Length of time, entire abstraction, and the separateness not only of the prisoner but of his work, afford excellent grounds for the visitor, and serve to awaken in the convict a sense of his errors, while the advice and gentle exhortation of his visitor open up a hope of improved condition by an improvement in conduct.

The Committee on the Eastern Penitentiary have divided the several wards of the prison, allotting a portion to each member. It is required of the members to visit their allotment at least once in two weeks.

They have appointed a committee on discharged prisoners, composed at present of four members, whose duties are, to visit the prisoners as soon as possible after their admission into the prison, and to visit those about to be discharged, some days prior to their departure, to counsel them, and in case of necessity supply any deficiency in their clothing.

Many of the prisoners, upon their entry, are found to be unable to read or write. For such the State has provided a schoolmaster. In many cases, persons who have entered the prison entirely ignorant in this respect have made surprising progress in reading, writing and arithmetic.

There is an instance now of a young man who came to the prison when about eighteen years of age with an imperfect knowledge of reading, not able to write his name, and entirely ignorant of figures, who has within two years learned to read very well, writes a good hand, and has acquired a knowledge of mathematics truly wonderful: he has gone far ahead of those who gave him his first lessons.

The Eastern Penitentiary has a Library, well supplied with useful books, many in the German language.

The books are furnished every two weeks to the prisoners; many religious papers and tracts are distributed by the Committee; many of the prisoners are subscribers to papers of a religious character—none other are admitted.

The following is a summary of the visits as reported by the Committee for the year 1864 :

*Summary of Visits and Interviews with Prisoners during the year 1864.*

| 1864.            | Visits. | Interviews<br>in the cells | Interviews <sup>s</sup><br>at the<br>cell doors. | Total<br>Interviews | Separate<br>Prisoners<br>visited. |
|------------------|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st month . . .  | 49      | 262                        | 210                                              | 472                 | 177                               |
| 2d month . . .   | 47      | 270                        | 117                                              | 387                 | 180                               |
| 3d month . . .   | 48      | 290                        | 162                                              | 452                 | 186                               |
| 4th month . . .  | 47      | 287                        | 106                                              | 393                 | 194                               |
| 5th month . . .  | 51      | 317                        | 135                                              | 452                 | 256                               |
| 6th month . . .  | 40      | 238                        | 94                                               | 332                 | 179                               |
| 7th month . . .  | 37      | 184                        | 86                                               | 270                 | 125                               |
| 8th month . . .  | 32      | 165                        | 120                                              | 285                 | 152                               |
| 9th month . . .  | 47      | 252                        | 198                                              | 450                 | 167                               |
| 10th month . . . | 39      | 247                        | 80                                               | 327                 | 176                               |
| 11th month . . . | 46      | 278                        | 77                                               | 355                 | 135                               |
| 12th month . . . | 67      | 265                        | 162                                              | 427                 | 212                               |
|                  | 550     | 3,055                      | 1,547                                            | 4,602               | 2,139                             |

Number of Visits at Penitentiary during the year, 550

“ “ Interviews with Prisoners in their cells, 3,055

“ “ “ “ “ at the cell doors, 1,547

Total Interviews during the year, . . . . 4,602

Separate Prisoners visited each month—average, 178

Great desire was felt by the Committee to introduce a statement of some of the cases of marked and permanent reformation, consequent upon the faithful and patient



labors of the Committee, in order that, while so much time is given to the subject of prison discipline and the benefit of the convict, some fruits of the principles of the work might be adduced. These excellent and most consoling and encouraging results are numerous; if not all that could be desired, they are at least more than those unacquainted with the efforts of the visitors have deemed possible. But it is believed that narratives of the reformation and perseverance of those who have been convicted, which are encouraging and interesting to the Society, and would be equally so to every philanthropist in the country, might be productive of evil to the very person whose success has been the object of the visitors' exertions, and whose improvement in morals, learning and manners is the theme of felicitation in the Society and of gratitude to God. It is the object of the discipline of the Penitentiary to keep from the discharged convict the stamp of public punishment. To follow him then with any statement of his former imprisonment and subsequent success in virtuous efforts, that would be satisfactory or instructive to the public, might be so to designate him as to make his case known to those with whom he had become a virtuous companion; else one or two cases of remarkable success on the part of the visitors might be cited, in which some, perfectly ignorant of all common school learning, had, during their imprisonment in the Penitentiary, been taught to read and write and to practise arithmetic, and had been led to the formation of admirable resolves; and in a few months after their release they are under the advice and care of their friends,

found taking a useful position, and becoming valuable, by their skill and probity, to the public service, and earning for their dependents at home an excellent living, and for themselves more than a living, more than life—earning for themselves a good name by discharging punctually and fully all the duties that belong to the position to which they have been called. Lord Bacon says “the duties of life are greater than life.” Surely then, a man who, in his ignorance, seems to have dedicated his life to vice and crime, and to have found his true home in a penitentiary, is earning more than life when, awakened to the true worth of the human character, and supplied with practical education, he starts forth into the world and achieves by his honest labor the confidence of the good and the respect of all, and redeems himself from the degradation which seemed, in his early career, almost inevitable.

Instances of this kind, it is repeated, might be presented, with such particulars as would seem almost the work of imagination; but those very particulars which would give interest to the statement would lead to a useless and perhaps injurious identification of the person.

It is evident from the success which has attended the labors of the Committee at the Eastern Penitentiary, that much good is to be effected among the convicts. But it also appears equally evident that that good is to be attained, under ordinary circumstances, only by the unfailing patience of the visitors and the protracted incarceration of the prisoner. The prisoner often knows quite as much of the world and worldly matters as the visitor, but he has not been able to qualify his know-

ledge with virtue; and pride and prejudice and the effect of evil association have to be overcome before a single simple lesson of the visitor can be made acceptable. Yet patience, kindness, sympathy, have done the work, and many have left the Penitentiary blessing the Providence that snatched them from the downward path to destruction, and blessing those humane beings who recognized in them the image, the defaced image of God, and the claim of a common humanity. If there are those who think that even more should be done in the way of reformation in such a school, let them try to aid the experiment—or refusing that, let them think how often the whole of society has been sifted down, and that these inmates of the Penitentiary are the *refuse* of each successive sifting: what material for reformation! The hedges and ditches may furnish guests for a costly supper, poverty may need only a good garment to make its wearer acceptable, but the tenants of the lowest dens of vice of a crowded city have no invitation to the feast of good things; and no habits which they can assume will hide their moral deformity.

## COUNTY PRISON.

The labors of the Society through its Committee specially designated, have been continued in the County Prison with their usual results. Some good has undoubtedly been wrought in the moral condition of men committed on slight charges for a short time; and where the intercourse between the visitor and the prisoner has been necessarily so limited as to produce little direct moral effect, there can be very little doubt that the regard paid to his physical condition, and the sense which the prisoner has of the sympathies of his kind, produce an ameliorating effect upon his mind, and induce him to resolve on some amendment. That amendment depends so much on circumstances which neither the prisoner nor his friendly visitor can control, that it is difficult to say how strong a resolution to good may have been violated when again the unhappy man falls, or how much the visitor has wrought upon his heart, should the prisoner, when liberated, follow out his promises of amendment and redeem his time and character. There is, however, no difficulty in ascertaining the duty of the visitor in such matters. He must plant and he must water—the increase is the gift of another.

Few things in the course of an active man's life are

more consoling and encouraging than a full and clear sense of duty in any work which he may undertake, and especially is it a matter of the utmost importance to feel the strong conviction that the undertaking itself is a duty.

On the character and future conduct of the convict, rather than of the temporarily imprisoned person, are the efforts of the visitor to be most effective. Time for instruction, time for monition by the teacher and time for reflection, time for repentance and time for sound resolve, are found in the cell of the convict who has a year or more to serve. The amount of labor—easy, moderate and profitable to himself—that is required of him, gives a wholesome direction to his thought, begetting a sense of a consideration of some value in him; and the laboring convict is almost certain to be more improved in his moral condition by the advice of his visitors, than is the idle, unemployed prisoner. Hence the most profitable work of the Society among prisoners in the County Prison, is to be found in the cells of the laboring male convicts; and a good report of the efforts of the Committee in that field of labor is made, so far as those labors have extended.

The Society has to regret, as a considerable number of the male convicts have to mourn over, the protracted absence of Dr. WILLIAM SHIPPEN, one of the Vice Presidents of the Society, who has for more than twenty years been an almost weekly visitor at the convict cell of the County Prison, teaching, advising and guiding those whose crimes or misfortunes placed them within the reach of his good efforts. Severe sickness, which in

an advanced age yields slowly to medical treatment, has deprived the Society of the reflected honor of his labors, the prisoner of the benefit of his controlling good influence, and himself of the pleasure of doing good to others. The Society, in expressing its sympathies with the sufferings of its officer, hopes that he will be soon restored to active usefulness.

While many of the proper committees have been active in the Convict, and in the Untried Department of the County Prison, it is believed that the number of visits might be considerably augmented with advantage to the prisoner, and towards the fulfilment of the designs of the Society.

The number of male prisoners, it may be remarked, is greatly diminished by the war. It would be a consolation, amid the evils of the existing conflict, if we could believe that the restoration of peace would not augment the lists of all classes of male prisoners. But, unfortunately, many of those who have joined the army, and are quite as likely as others to escape the perils of battle, must return to their haunts of vice with no moral improvement, no correction of a depraved appetite. And it is quite consistent with the experience of other countries, if not with our own, that some who go to the army with tolerably good habits, return with vitiated tastes, and join the ranks of those who become habitues of our prisons, and in time sink down hopeless victims of debauchery. The character of many who have joined the army permit us to hope for much better things from a vast majority of those whom peace shall release from the ranks; but the terrible effect, on a

crowded city, of the immorality of the smallest minority, is to be greatly feared, and should be carefully guarded against.

To the Female Department of this prison we made particular reference in our Report last year. The circumstances of the place have not essentially changed. The principal differences are the diminished number of general committals, and the greatly increased number of convicts. The cause of this great addition to the female occupants of the criminal cells, we mentioned in our last Report—though then the evil had not attained its present height; but we were right in the statement of the cause, and in our apprehension of the increased effect. The direct cause is intoxication. This has been terribly promoted by the facility with which the women obtain sums of money larger than they had been accustomed to handle, and the want of restraint, in consequence of the absence of those to whom they are responsible. These circumstances lead to gossip, to drinking, and these habits to still greater violations of female proprieties; and want of care of their means, leaves them in want of money, which they attempt to supply by theft: thus the descending grades of vice lead to crime, and the drinking woman becomes impure, and impurity leads to larceny, and larceny to the convict cell.

More than once in the year 1864 the Female Department of the Philadelphia County Prison was visited with disease, which for a short time justified some alarm, and called for prompt and efficient action on the part of the officers and the Inspectors. One of these

visitations occurred at the close of the month of November, and continued into the following month. On this occasion, the disease was of a typhoid character, what is usually denominated a "jail fever." What were the proximate causes, it is difficult to say, as the prison was in the usual state of cleanliness, and the disease did not appear among those whose habits of debauchery seemed to expose them especially to such an attack.

The history of this fearful visitation, its commencement, progress and effects, seems to be the subject for the Report of the Inspectors of that institution; at least it belongs to their administration. But it is so far the business of the Society to note the occurrence of the evil, as it was the occasion of prompt and praiseworthy action on the part of those who direct the affairs of that institution, the inspectors and superintendent, and of a beautiful exhibition of generous devotion and kindness by the keepers and matrons of that department of the prison; and it would be unjust to another class, to omit special mention of the prompt, unfailing devotion of the healthful prisoners to their suffering sisters. Night and day these convicts illustrated the loveliness of their sex's nature, and their possession of good qualities that had been overlaid or overruled by the circumstances of their situation in life, and the errors and crimes into which they had been led. It is not the place here to present a question which might impinge upon theological discussion, or provoke it at least; but it is certain that the *most* of those who are regarded as the most criminal in the convict cells of the female



department have, as circumstances gave opportunity, showed the possession, and seemed to delight in the exercise, of some of the best feelings of human nature, and to illustrate all by cheerful sacrifices of their own convenience and safety, in behalf of those, towards whom they had no obligations beyond those of common humanity. And the circumstance is now mentioned, because the fact presents a strong argument for continued gentle, moral dealing with the offending woman ; and in this particular class, it shows what point in their character should be seized on to commence the work of persuasion to good. It is certainly, with sentenced prisoners, not always the best mode of proceeding to endeavor to dwell with exaggerated earnestness upon the crime which has brought them to the prison. It may be better to ascertain what principle, if any, is left uncontaminated,—what virtue has been buried up by neglect or recklessness, and to try to bring that into observation, by nursing it into growth, and to infuse into the unhappy prisoner a new self-respect, by presenting, in the best light, these assets of her moral nature, neglected in the full pride of her dashing follies and crimes, but now available in her moral bankruptcy.

In more than one instance, great good has been achieved by this mode of dealing with the offender ; and in one, especially, the results were so conspicuous as to warrant great hopes for this mode of dealing with prisoners. It is offensive to human feelings to seize upon the faulty points of character, and argue from them the vicious character of all ; while it is a grateful compliment to human nature to seek out the good

remaining qualities, and make them the base of amendatory action. The compliment will be the more intensely felt, and the more gratefully acknowledged, in proportion to the variety of these good points; and the benefit to result will be in proportion to the judgment and affection manifested in the selection and culture of the point to be improved.

These remarks are made strictly by way of hint and encouragement to those who would assist in the moral redemption of prisoners; and, in that direction they are pertinent to this branch of our Report.

#### STATISTICS.

The number of visits made by the different members of the Committee to the County Prison during the past year, is probably about 780; and beside these, ladies acting at the request of some member of the Committee, have been regular in their visits to the cells of the prisoners of their own sex; and there is reason to believe that permanent good has been wrought by the pious visitations of these women. These visits amounted to about 208 during the year.

The kindness of some of the female visitors has secured for them the affectionate attention of the prisoners, who await with impatience the visiting day, and prepare themselves for recitations and instructions. And it should be added, that hearing lessons is not all that these ladies perform: they speak with friendly earnestness to the poor prisoners, and bring them to a direct and steady contemplation of the evil cause which

has made them the indwellers of prison cells, and lead them to a full understanding of the direct and almost inseparable relations between their conduct and their position ; between vice and the prison.

It is worthy of remark, that the number of commitments to the County Prison in the year 1864 was less than that in 1863, by no less than three thousand one hundred and fifty-two (3,152.) This may indeed be regarded in part as the effect of the departure of a great number of men to the scene of war, but, happily, the number of women was proportionately less, so that it may be said that those vices and smaller crimes which usually crowd the prison cells, have been, if not less in number, less obtrusive. The remarks on the character of the offenses, formerly made, hold good now. There are fewer committals for drunkenness than formerly, more in proportion for misdemeanor ; and personal violence is more frequent, even up to homicide. Among females, the crimes of larceny, shop-lifting and burglary are frequent, and the number of commitments and convictions is greatly increased, perhaps more than doubled. The gradation from small vices to these felonies is regular and rapid, and only a few are made to pause in their downward course. But, thank God, some have been made to pause in their terrible career, and have been saved.

## STATE AGENCY.

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What may be regarded as the great feature of the year's labors, is the effort made to procure a knowledge of the situation of all the County Prisons and the Alms-houses in Pennsylvania, and to make the inquiries in such a manner, and to present their results in such a form, that the Government of the Commonwealth should see in the information presented, a state of things that requires legislative consideration; and, in the manner of inquiry, a means of obtaining and diffusing important knowledge, that should be fostered and compensated by the State.

In the month of April, the Society adopted a resolution that it was expedient to employ Agents to visit, if possible, every prison in the State, and make inquiry as to the character of the building and the means of retaining and disciplining its inmates, the kind of confinement which the building was capable of affording, the mode of furnishing supplies, and in what manner the supplies of the place were obtained, how distributed, and what was the regulation with regard to the two sexes, and especially what the means employed to secure moral instruction to the prisons, and what, if any, were the plans adopted for providing for those persons who had served a time in the prison, and were to be dismissed into the world with a sense of their own degra-

gation by crime and its punishment, and the suspicions and distrust of those among whom they were likely to seek employment.

The Society readily discovered the evils resulting from a want of full information on the part of those who make the laws for the protection of the weak and the punishment of the vicious, and they moved in this matter, as in others that relate to public prisons, with no view of making themselves a power for enacting or administering laws, but only to give to the community that kind of information which naturally results from their proceedings, and which is necessary to effective legislation with regard to vice and to poverty. A certain set of questions propounded formally by the government to all superintendents of prisons and almshouses may produce, though they have not yet produced, answers that will inform with regard to the branch of the subject upon which the inquiry is made; but, in addition to the fact that some Superintendents make no returns, no answers in explanation, it is important to comprehend that these questions do not touch the root of the matter, and that the answers are indefinite, and perhaps erroneous.

What is needed, is an Agent, who shall, himself, investigate the affairs of the prisons and almshouses, in the spirit in which the Society looks into the condition of prisons within its personal circle of action; not to interfere in the management, not to disturb the order of the place, not to hinder any officer in the discharge of his duty, but simply to see how the management is conducted, how much of order is preserved, and how the

prisoner is affected by the officer over him,—to confirm what is consistent with law and humanity, to state the result of all close investigations, and to suggest such changes in existing laws as will best promote the true object of imprisonment and the intentions of almshouses, and thus to give to our whole State that just claim for philanthropic efforts and successful charities which has been allowed to the principal city.

In Great Britain and Ireland, the officers of every prison make annual returns of the condition of their particular institution, and statements of the costs of each branch, the exact character of every expenditure, and the mode of treating every class of prisoners, with statements from the religious, the moral, and the literary associations of the prisons; and, in addition to all these, a committee of Parliament sits to inquire into the minor operation of treatment, so as to decide in time and on ample testimony relative to the claims of the various systems adopted in the different prisons, so that, approving and accepting the best, they may recommend that which shall become universal, and thus a complete uniformity be insured.

It is worthy of remark here, that, in the British and Irish reports of prison discipline and labor, it is not the Superintendent or Governor alone that is heard, in the statements made to the Government Secretary; the head or overseer of each department makes the statement of his special branch; and thus not only the gross amount of labor and expenditure is accounted for, but all the details, and all the costs, and all the effects are made apparent; and so far is this carried, that each

clergyman and each teacher gives a particular account of his labor and of its results.

If all the information cannot be obtained in the State of Pennsylvania by exactly such means, it may be elicited by a single Agent, visiting, in turn, each prison, and making report of the condition and movements therein, with the complete exactness which distinguishes the British and Irish reports, and with this great advantage—if not in truth, at least in the means of obtaining confidence—viz.: the report of the single Agent will be the result of investigation into all the individual reports of superintendents and keepers; and the public, whose interests, moral and fiscal, are concerned in the inquiry, will have the means of knowing what is done and how it is done; and circumstances of the institutions not exactly reached by the formal queries, will be exposed for approval or censure, for confirmation or correction. However honest and faithful may be our public agents, they need, even for their own credit, the censorship of general and particular observation. And in a most especial manner is that kind of censorship necessary—we do not say proper, but *absolutely necessary*—where those persons submitted to the care of public agents are, by poverty, vice or crime, shut out from general sympathy and general observation.

The importance of this perfect understanding of all that relates to prisons, will be comprehended by those who would apply a remedy to evils that manifestly abound, and perhaps more in sections of the State sparsely populated, and where only a few reach the

prisons. There laxity in discipline is most likely to be found, and total want of appropriate distinction of crimes and separation of sexes may be looked for; though it must be confessed that instances may be cited from the reports of the State Agents which show that even in densely populated districts these very errors are abundant.

Before closing the remarks on this branch of the Report, it is deemed proper to refer directly to the mission undertaken by the Agency of the Society,—not to give the details which they report, but to draw attention to a hasty abstract of their statements, which is given in this journal in the form of AN APPENDIX. The full statements made to the Society would, unitedly, form a good-sized duodecimo volume, and afford interesting reading to all who share in the anxiety felt by this Society to alleviate the condition of the criminal, the vicious and poor, and who feel a proper State pride in the efforts that have already been successfully made in the cause of humanity in Pennsylvania, and a true solicitude for the proper direction of exertions to complete the good works so happily begun. While all praise is due to the Agents who have thus ably and laboriously represented the views of the Society in collecting information upon the subject of Prisons and Almshouses, and gratitude will, it is believed, be felt for their sacrifice by those who are true Philanthropists, it is due to them as an encouragement to others, to say that the Society, in whose behalf they went forth, acknowledge the obligation which these Agents have conferred upon them, and believe that they will find



their chief reward in the consciousness of having done good to others.

It is proper to state that, while the matter of the Appendix contains only a meagre abstract of the Report of the Agents, it is understood that copies of the Report *in extenso* will be deposited in the archives of the Society, for future reference—a monument of faithful labors on the part of the Agents, and a faithful record of a state of things which is not, on the whole, creditable to the Commonwealth. May we not hope that the statement, thus prepared, will awaken the Legislature of the State to prompt and wholesome action in the direction of the penal and pauper institutions of the Commonwealth; that, now, as they know what needs a remedy, they will weigh with wisdom and charity the means suggested for the good end.

The members of the Society who volunteered their services in the good work of the Agency, are James J. Barclay, Esq., the President of the Society, and Messrs. Jeremiah Willetts and Philip P. Randolph.

## LOCAL AGENCY.

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The Society, in seeking to give efficacy to its efforts by securing the services of General Agents for the State, does not mean thereby to lessen the service of the Agent for the County Prison. The City Agency is a sectional office, valuable as carrying out the humane views of the Society with regard to the inmates of the County Prison. He has nothing directly to do with the statistics of the institution, or the general arrangements of the prison. His office is with individuals—to carry out the plans of the Society with regard to the wants, sufferings, comfort and release of the incarcerated. And it may be remarked that, active as may be any person undertaking the duties of this Agency, it is evident that he can have little time for any other employment, if he tries to do the full duties of that place, and it is believed the present Agent, William J. Mullen, really does.

The Report of the Agent for the past year shows of how many persons he has procured the release under circumstances which, in some cases proved that, without his efforts in their behalf, they must have endured the hardship of protracted imprisonment, with a sense of outraged innocence; occupying cells with the destitute and profane, and growing familiar with the persons, the language, and habits of the confirmed devotee of vice and crime.

In other cases the efforts of the Agent have been successful in lessening the amount of imprisonment, where circumstances have come to light that rendered a diminution of infliction quite consistent with justice, and promotive of virtuous resolves.

In many of the cases the successful interference of the Agent has resulted in the restoration of parents to their dependent family, where petty malice had found means to secure imprisonment upon charges that could not be sustained in a court of justice, though supported by an oath sufficient to justify the magistrate in the commitment. In some of these cases the unfortunate prisoners might have remained three or four months in the cells, and at the end of that time have been dismissed, with a simple utterance that the "bill had been ignored," or "two terms of Court had expired."

One great office of the Agent—made great by the success of his efforts therein—is to settle difficulties between the prosecutor and the prisoner, to bring about reconciliation, and thus procure the release of the sufferer. And it may not be out of place here to state that, in a great number of instances, the prosecutor is the real offender. Having vented his rage upon the weaker party, he finishes up the work of vengeance by procuring the arrest of his miserable antagonist; and as bail is not easily found for such a person, imprisonment follows the beating. In the arrangement of these cases, the Agent has been eminently successful, and the "blessings of those that were ready to perish have come upon him."

The world hears of the cases of extraordinary crime

and great suffering, and approves the effort that limits the punishment for the former to legitimate bounds, and alleviates the latter by timely interference. But the numerous cases of individual misery that are daily appealing to the Prison Agent, are not known beyond the individuals that are directly concerned therein. These, however, claim the largest share of labors, and constitute, indeed, the great sum of misery. They have, it is believed, been faithfully dealt with by the Agent, and his efforts deserve the approval of the humane.

There is, however, another class of prisoners, who, while they suffer much, are least heard of—whose cases, indeed, do not reach up to the Agent's level of duties. These occur among the vagrants and drunkards, and present claims for the excitement of pity and the exercise of legitimate power. These are violators of the law; but they have not, in many cases, been reared in a comprehension of the *crime* of drunkenness. They know that to be an habitual drunkard is to be in violation of the laws of the land and the rules of good society. They know that the use of intoxicating liquors is general—in their own class universal; and they know that such general use creates a merciful and lenient regard of occasional excess—especially when some unusual event, productive of great joy or intense grief, seems to suggest the use of an unusual amount of liquor. They hear of it in the classes above them—they see it in their own associates. They grant to others, as they claim for themselves, a free and generous use of the strong drink; and allow to others, as they claim for themselves, exemption from censure, when that freedom,

under some circumstances, degenerates into too great a liberty. They unite with society generally in condemning the habitual drunkard.

The difficulty with that class of persons is to pause when habitual drinking is liable to go into excess, or when the frequent excess exceeds those special occurrences on account of which they are, by their own standard, excused, if not justified. It is argued that there is a point, somewhere, in the habit of drinking, at which crime begins; but, unfortunately, that point, which is not far ahead to the beginner in drinking, is removed as he advances. He is, after a few debauches, ready to confess that it exists, but is not where he stands. He thinks that it is attained by others a little more advanced; but when he reaches that point himself, it

“ —— is still so near him, yet beyond him lies.”

And he plunges onward, sure never, in his own view, to reach the imaginary goal of habitual drinking, realizing the poet's idea of the points of compass :

“ Ask, Where's the North ? In York, 'tis at the Tweed ;  
In Scotland, at the Orkadés ; and there,  
At Greenland, Zembla, and the Lord knows where.”

Even in prison for the twentieth time, the miserable inebriate finds, in his own case, some circumstance to mitigate the fault, and to remove him from the list of habitual drunkards.

This apparent self-deception—at best, this palliation—

is much more noticeable in females than in males. By them it is usually manifested in disposition to refer it to accident, to a bad state of the system, an empty stomach, or excess of grief or of joy; and never fully and freely acknowledged, unless it be to claim for that fault an excuse which they know would not be allowed for open impurity; or rather, it is often a ruse—an attempt to deny the greater by admitting the less—when in general, though not always, both are justly and equally chargeable to the unfortunate ones. Some of the poor wretches do, indeed, by a kind of miracle, avoid theft while they yield to the inclination to drunkenness and impurity; and others make a great merit of committing only one of these wrongs, while they condemn and avoid the other. They thus

“Compound for sins they are inclined to  
By damning those they have no mind to.”

It is with this miserable class that those who attempt to alleviate the miseries of prisons have the most difficulty, and of whom they have the least hope. They are not beyond hope, indeed, at any stage; but they have such a high sense of the merit of avoiding two or three vices, that it is difficult to persuade them of the enormity of one. Yet, out of this class—low, debased, grovelling—there have been made converts to purity and virtue; though it must be confessed that they have been “snatched like brands from the burning.” Theft, Impiety, Impurity even, yield annually some of their members to the efforts which philanthropy makes

in their behalf—makes with perseverance and in kindness, following up the watchfulness beyond the prison, in training and restraining, for a long time. But the repentant, reformed female drunkard that has suffered the disgrace of frequent imprisonment, is a rarity among the rarest class of the reformed.

It has been usual to make an abstract of some of the most interesting cases of release which the Agent has procured during the year, and present them in this part of the Report, as a proof of the advantage and efficacy of his "Agency." But as it is probable that the Agent will, on his own responsibility, present them at large, and as of necessity this Report has reached a volume quite beyond the calculation of those appointed for its preparation, it has been deemed advisable to omit the customary abstract of labors so creditable to the Society and so honorable to its Agent.

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## MORAL INSTRUCTION.

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The work of moral instruction has been carried on as usual in the two prisons in this city, and it is believed that some good has been wrought by the efforts, both of those who teach *in* and at the entrance of the cells, going from "door to door" with their messages of cau-

tion and kindness; and those who, at stated seasons, Sundays especially, speak to all, in one great lesson of denunciation of vice and invitation to virtue.

As a general rule, these labors, when they work good upon their object, produce no sudden, miraculous effect, but touch the affections and awaken the conscience, and good resolves are formed for future execution. It is true that unfavorable circumstances do, in very many cases, lead the half-repentant back to vice and crime, and the resolve, if remembered beyond the prison cell, is only called up to have its consideration and execution postponed to some future day, which is never reached, or is only attained to repeat the postponement of the execution. There may not, however, be so great a difference between these erring, half-repentant and back-sliding offenders and their betters as may at first appear; at least the difference may lie rather in the character of the fault than in the progress of the amendment.

Procrastination is not the thief of the time of the prisoner alone; and neglect of good resolutions is not so unfrequent with the respectable as to shut out compassion and some indulgence in behalf of the criminal. Many of us owe too much to the benefit of circumstances to permit us to condemn even the frequent violation of good resolves; and "the sin that doth most easily beset" one, may be that which another can readily avoid. The proclivity of some minds is toward offences that are against established customs and public enactments. The errors of others may be those against which the legislature has not fixed its canons, and for which the magistracy has no authority to grant commitments or



impose a fine. The faults of one class of people, while they work injury to that class, in degradation and in loss of self-respect, injure society by constant exposure and the readiness of contact—as some noxious plants, bearing their poison in their leaves, are sure to inflict injury upon all who come in contact with them. There are other persons who possess and practise means of evil which are often concealed from their cotemporaries, from whom they suffer no direct punishment, and even escape general suspicion. Their opinions are privately promulged, and are scattered by others, through the press, to injure society; as the poison of the most noxious weed lurks unseen in its root, and is extracted thence by the savage to tip his arrow with death.

There are instances of great good resulting from the stated Sunday preaching in the prison, and it would be profitable, if it were delicate, to mention one or two, as encouragement to those who thus minister. But the mention of the name, and even of the crime of the prisoner thus favorably affected, could not be made without wounding the susceptibilities that deserve respect. It may not be improper, however, to mention that a female who remained a long time in prison on a criminal charge awaiting her trial, evinced, during the several months preceding her summons to court, no feeling of regret at the crime which brought her there. Soon after her conviction and sentence, a discourse from the stated preacher reached her heart; and while she confessed that she committed the act for which she had been convicted, she affected no palliation, offered no apology for herself, but accepted the imprisonment as due to the

offence : some favorable circumstances were presented, and she was legally released, and returned to enjoy, and, it is believed, to deserve, the confidence of a good family, of which for years she had been an inmate without ever having committed a fault to disturb their confidence, till that for which she had suffered. We refer to this case, in this connection, to prove the importance of maintaining all the means of moral and religious instruction which have been adopted. Such a case as that to which we have just alluded, is full of encouragement,—especially to those who are intimate with all the circumstances, which it would not be proper to mention here.

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## AUXILIARIES.

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In our last year's statement, we expressed a belief that the hopes of founding auxiliary societies in this State, to assist in the promulgation of our views and the consummation of our plans, would soon be realized. Events have not justified those hopes. The peculiar situation of the country naturally draws the attention of influential men away from the consideration of subjects that admit of postponement. It is difficult to excite, in any considerable number, a devotion to an

object which includes chiefly the situation of the vicious and the guilty, while a nation is appealing for every thought and effort, to maintain its existence, and the sufferings of those who bleed for their country are demanding effective sympathy. The spirit of humanity is as active, as efficient as it ever was in our State, but it is naturally, it is patriotically called into exercise, in other channels than those which peace and order suggest.

Submitting to this state of things as one of the necessities of the terrible condition of our country, we are happy to state that the disposition to form auxiliary societies still exists in the places to which we have all along looked with hope, and we must regard the delay as the result of prudent consideration, that prefers the postponement for a time of a good work, to the danger to which premature initiation would expose it. It is better to begin well than to hesitate in the prosecution.

We are compensated for the delay in the organization of auxiliaries in a few towns of the interior, by the result of the effective labors of our State Agents, who, finding it impracticable to establish societies in certain places, have insured the co-operation of active citizens in the good work, by inviting them to become "corresponding members" of this Society. The hearty concurrence of so many good philanthropists opens up, at once, the means of obtaining information concerning the condition of the prisons and almshouses of the State, and of putting into execution any well-digested plan with regard to those institutions which may be matured by the parent Society.

On the whole, this enlistment of the sympathies of

active philanthropists in the most sparsely settled portions of our State, may be regarded as preferable to societies in such parts, for the present, as each will, it is believed, become really a correspondent, and, giving the information needed, will also be active in watching the movements in prisons and almshouses with greater ease and efficiency than a society. In the more densely populated parts we need the weight and immunities of combination. The activity of the individual must be promoted, and his responsibility sustained by the Society. And we trust that, among the good works that will follow—that will, indeed, be consequent upon a national peace—will be the establishment of our plans of Auxiliaries, and the combination and concert of action of the philanthropic in all parts of the State.

We are anxious to establish the Auxiliaries, and hope that the time is not distant when they will be found active in many parts of the Commonwealth; but less disappointment in the delay is felt, because it is esteemed better to begin under favorable circumstances, that will insure success to hearty efforts, than to waste the energy and zeal of a few devoted co-operators in exertions to divert the minds of the many from the national struggle—which now occupies all thoughts, and absorbs all interest—which efforts, at best, could result only in a divided attention, that would in time insure failure.

The idea of Auxiliaries, however modified by individual exertions in certain parts of the State, and however the fulfilment may yield to the exigencies of the time, is still cherished by the Society, and no doubt

exists that some will soon be in operation, to insure and excite perpetual and direct co-operation in favor of the great cause of humanity to which the Society is dedicated.

No single effort of the parent Society, or its active committees, is postponed or lessened because exertions may be made to establish Auxiliaries; consequently the delay in their establishment will not hinder the customary good works of the Society, though it may prevent the diffusion through the State of some of the benefits which are wrought in the City.

The Society has not existed so long, without learning that, in all efforts for public good dependent upon public consent and social co-operation, there must be occasional disappointment of hopes. The time must always be well chosen,—the importance of the measure must not be overshadowed by movements of still greater importance—and in the present case it must be conceded that what concerns the well-being of all, and the character and condition of the nation itself, must be allowed preponderance; and while the schemes are held in abeyance by superior considerations, it will be the duty of the Society to keep alive the spirit which has actuated its members, and to use the season of inaction abroad, to perfect, for future usefulness, the machinery which it is intended to put into operation,—and thus employ ourselves in preparation, and watch for the opportune moment when action may be useful.

The Society comprehends all this, and its managers feel that, to be successful, they must

“Learn to labor and to wait.”

The cities and larger towns of the interior, as well as the metropolis of our State, will, when the war shall have closed, have thrown upon their charity or their justice, material sufficient to suggest economy in the first, and humanity in the last. Thousands will return to take their place in society and compete with the industrious for the profits of business ; but hundreds will bring back shattered constitutions and torsolike forms, that will compete for alms ; and some will come with morals vitiated, and appetites depraved, to compete with each other for the gains of crime. It will then be seen that the condition of the prisons and the almshouses concerns the lovers of order as well as the practisers of philanthropy.\*

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\* Since preparing this part of the Report, information has been received that gentlemen, who had manifested a deep interest in the movement of the Society, have organized an Auxiliary Association in Harrisburg, and are ready to proceed, in harmony with the parent Society, in the execution of all the plans of good that have been formed. This aid is specially gratifying, as it affords a constant and ready means of communicating with the Legislature of the State, without the appearance of importunity, and the plans and labors of the parent Society may even be discussed by the members of the Auxiliary Association and those of the State Legislature, at times when other business is not pressing, and when the chance of effective exertion, by the choice of time and persons, may be calculated on.

## INSANE.

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It is difficult to ascertain what are all the duties of a Commonwealth towards its members, till circumstances shall suggest them by presenting objects for their exercise, and generally in such numbers, or in such weight as to enforce attention and secure recognition. And the discharge of these duties must, in their character, depend much upon the means which the State may possess to give them efficiency. In this State, perhaps more than in any other of the whole Union, have successful efforts been made to succor and cure the insane. The institutions that are specially devoted to this object are not numerous, but they are comprehensive and efficient; and where amendment of the patient is possible, the treatment in these institutions gives the highest hopes of success. Where the mind of the inmates is hopelessly deranged, many of the hospitals have the means, in space and attendants, to insure physical comfort to a patient, and preserve him from the mental irritations to which in public intercourse he is so liable.

The magnificent institution in West Philadelphia, connected with the Pennsylvania Hospital, is honorable to the philanthropy of those by whose contributions it was reared and is sustained, and no less honorable to the science, skill and devotion of those by whom it is conducted.

And another institution, of a similar character, on the north side of the city, is abundant in good works and in objects for the exercise of the philanthropy of contributors and officers. The Blockley Almshouse has a department specially devoted to the insane, in which, as we learn, great good is effected.

There are at Harrisburg and Pittsburgh Insane Asylums, that, in their plan and in the execution of that plan, are most benevolent and beneficial. And there are private asylums for the mentally afflicted. All these do incalculable good; but perhaps one of the most beneficial of these results, is a suggestion which they make of the necessity of an additional provision for the insane.

Our inquiries, last year, included the character of almshouses, as well as prisons,—nay, still closer than that, they included the state of the poor, as well as the treatment of the vicious and criminal; and not only did our specially appointed Agents ask what were the regulations and description of Almshouses, where they existed in counties, but what was the treatment of the poor in townships, and even counties, where there are no almshouses. The result of those inquiries will be given in another part of this Report; but we may here say, that such an inquiry, including the state of the vicious and guilty, as well as of the poor, showed that some new provision for the insane are necessary, to satisfy the sense of true Christian benevolence, which has been sharpened and refined, in these directions, by what has already been done.

We are therefore prepared to say that the insane



poor, and the insane prisoner, have a claim upon the consideration of the Commonwealth. The State Asylum at Harrisburg is doing much good, and deserves respect and commendation. But while people are admitted into that institution, upon the payment of a certain sum, it follows that those who have nothing with which to pay, will neither be welcome to enter, nor be made participants of the best treatment, unless sent upon some private provision. The State Asylum is not a place for the insane pauper nor the insane prisoner of the State: other objects were proposed in its foundation, or other objects are suggested by its direction—especially by the demands of the people and the experience of its principal.

There is needed a State Asylum for the poor insane, where their condition can be carefully considered, and where their wants may claim and receive a proper ministration. It is a duty which the State owes to the people, to continue the work of benevolence in public institutions, and make them promotive, as far as possible, of comfort to every class. We are free to confess that, while we press the good work of charity upon public consideration, we are not only encouraged thereto by the general liberality that has marked the legislation of the State, but we build the argument for them upon its previous liberality and the benefits that flow therefrom. It is a favorite axiom, that the good we do is suggestive of further benefits, and the success of one benevolent effort is justification of another of the same philanthropic character. We shall not argue the question of the right of the poor to have their insane depen-

dents provided for, beyond the ordinary pauper provisions of the county, by State legislation. The visitation of insanity is one of a peculiar character, and is entitled to peculiar consideration; and though frequent, and often without remedy, yet its nature is such that not only is a speciality of treatment required, but a community of the sufferers renders scientific treatment more easily obtained, and indeed more effective. And it is of infinite consequence—we say of “infinite consequence,” because we are speaking of the immortal mind of those made in the image of God—it is of infinite consequence that persons afflicted with sickness of the mind, without the means of proper treatment at home, should be taken from the wretched hovels in which some are penned up—to disturb communities by their ravings—or be taken from the public highway, where the taunts of the unfeeling add to their misery and augment their nervous irritation, and be placed where gentle decision and kind discipline shall soothe, while they direct; and, if not restore the sufferer, to reason at least remove him from insult, and that continued irritation which makes him understand that he is crazy without comprehending why the disease of the mind should remove him from those sympathies which sickness of body awakens in his fellow-beings.

On this subject we have been moved to make some remarks, from the difficulty experienced, in the county prisons, to dispose of the insane convict. A prison is not the place for that kind of treatment to which the calamity of insanity entitles a man in a civilized community. The keeper of the prison cannot judge of the

character of mental disease, so as to apply the treatment which the idiosyncrasy of the sufferer would suggest to the physician who had studied and practised the science of treating mental maladies. And when instances of great violence occur, the cell of the convict is unprovided with those appliances which allow some liberty, but effect that restraint which is necessary to prevent the patient from doing violence to himself. Very few of the almshouses in the State are provided with means of restraining properly, the insane—fewer have physicians competent “to minister to a mind diseased.” Philadelphia County, from its great and condensed population, has many cases of insanity with which to furnish the wards of its almshouse; and the multitude of these cases suggested the employment of a medical man who had given attention to the subject of insanity: so that the insane pauper in the city has a home and homelike comfort provided, with such skill for his case as can discriminate between the various characters of the disease, and apply a remedy, where cure is possible, or soothe and console, where restoration is hopeless.

But when the officers of the prisons ask to transfer the insane convict to the proper ward of the almshouse, the Directors of that institution may ask whether it is meet to place the felon outlaw, the man who has committed homicide and robbery, or the woman who, to these crimes, has added all the vices which disgrace and degrade her sex,—whether it is meet, whether it is just, whether it is discreet, to place such persons in the same ward with the unfortunate insane—who have vio-

lated no law of the land, and exceeded no limit of social propriety. Shall the refuge of the poor, the unfortunate, be the retreat of the guilty also? Shall there be such an association of the insane poor and the insane criminal as shall intimate that poverty reduces man to a common level with crime? Were there no gleam of reason left in these unfortunates, such an association, such a confusion of the elements of the almshouse would be less repulsive to them—though shocking to the feelings of their friends, and offensive to every friend of humanity—to every one, indeed, who distinguishes between misfortune and crime. But there are not only gleams of reason in these insane—there are times when they seem to be “in their right mind,” with full power to judge of persons and events by which they are surrounded; and even when the disease continues, it is true that the patient is not altogether insane—there are subjects upon which he seems to think and speak with remarkable sanity; and even on those upon which he seems most at fault, he manifests a species of discrimination that makes it dangerous to trifle with his aberration. These persons, then, would suffer much from an association that would wound their sensibilities, and their friends would have reason to complain that the rights of the poor had been confounded with the punishment of the guilty.

The State, then, needs an Asylum—such as has been erected in the State of New York—in which to place the insane convict, where he can be treated in a way to develop his better faculties, and to commence that healthful action which may restore the sufferer to reason,

and perhaps, as has been the experience of asylums, develop the most welcome fact, that the very offense for which he became a convict, was the result of an incipient insanity, that removed from the act the character of crime.

The erection and maintenance of a State Asylum for Insane Convicts, is then suggested by humanity towards the prisoner, as removing him from those irritations that augment his disease and prevent a cure. It is suggested by a sense of just respect towards the unfortunate insane, whose friends are unable or unwilling to provide them support and care in the established asylums of the State. It is due to the character of our Commonwealth, that is distinguished as much by the multitude and benefit of its philanthropic institutions, as by the affluence of the endowments which she holds from nature.

This is a subject which commends itself to the consideration of all benevolent citizens; and when they comprehend fully its benefits, there will be created a public sentiment that will insure wholesome and competent legislation upon the subject.

It is only those who have watched the prisoner in his cell, that can tell the evils of insanity to a convict. Often his peculiarities, the result of the growing mental disease, are imputed to the depravity of principles that placed him there; and the monition of the keeper, as it regards conduct, only exasperates the sufferer, till he grows frantic with his imaginary oppressions, and commits violence upon those in his cell, or threatens it to those who may approach. It is long, before the suspicion of insanity is awakened—longer, before conviction

is secured, and the poor wretch, that has lost respect by criminal conduct abroad, loses sympathy by outrages in confinement; and violence or strongly enforced restraint is the resort of the keepers, who, could they comprehend the true state of the prisoner's case, would have made all just allowances for his painful condition, and never permitted additional restraint to go one single degree beyond what might be necessary to prevent the prisoner from doing injury to himself.

But when it has become evident that the convict is indeed deranged, and no longer accountable for his conduct, and therefore no longer liable to punishment, he must, if he remain in prison, be exposed to additional excitement. The knowledge of his disease gives no expectation that a remedy will be applied; and while he must continually suffer from the augmentation of his disease, he must be as constantly annoying the keepers by his eccentricities, and disturbing the occupants of other cells by his irrepressible improprieties. Without some place in which the insane convict may be treated with all the care which his insanity requires, and guarded with all the watchfulness which his sentence demands, his mental disease must be regarded as helpless and hopeless.

## HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

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Sensible, as every active member of this Society must be, that imprisonment, as a mere punishment, can do little good to the prisoner, and is only beneficial to the community as withdrawing him from the disturbing elements for just the time of his imprisonment; and aware, as all must be, that the power of the magistrate to commit for drunkenness and vagrancy is limited to one month's imprisonment—and even could he extend the time to six months, yet the present capabilities of the prison are not equal to the great number that would be sent for confinement; it hence follows that some place must be found to which the obstinate drunkard and the careless vagrant may be sent for a treatment that shall at once be a punishment for the past offence, and present something for the future safeguard of society against these parasites that suck the life-blood of the community, and scatter moral pestilence in their course.

There are many, who fall into the hands of the police, who deserve little punishment, and who profit by kindness and early discharge. But there are many who have no care for the morrow, and take no concern as to "what a day may bring forth;" as they know that a sound debauch only ends in prison fare—often better than they obtain out of doors; and that fare, with its disci-

pline, terminates in thirty days, when they are well purged of their whiskey, and are ready to go forth with a renewed appetite, and qualify themselves for another thirty days incarceration. Of this class are not those whose condition was contemplated when the Almshouse was erected. That is the retreat of the unfortunate, the lame, and the helpless ; and it should be the respectable residence of those who in health had contributed to the support of society, and whose resort to that home of the helpless is a right earned by contribution in better days.

The inveterate drunkard and the thriftless vagrant are as capable of work, and as able to earn a living, as the thousands of those who "undergo the repeated labors of the day," and by toil and economy supply themselves and their families with the necessities of life. These habitués of the prison, before they have, by debauchery, destroyed their mental and physical faculties, can work, and they ought to work ; and if they will persist in violating the laws of the country by beastly intoxication, they should suffer the penalties which the laws allow to their crimes ; and they should also pay for the cost which their beastly habits impose upon the community.

That all this may be done, and done with the means and hopes of producing some reformation, there should be provision made for their labor as well as their food. There is no reason why the sober, industrious, hard-working man should be compelled to earn, by the sweat of his brow, money to support another who, equally capable of labor with himself, is too idle and dissolute



to give himself to steady labor; or, if by chance he is driven to the acquisition of a little money, is too much of a drunkard to spend his earnings in anything but intoxicating drinks.

We then need a House of Correction—a house to correct the faults, correct the idle habits, correct the appetites of those who violate the rules of society and outrage the decencies of social life.

The class of people to whom we now refer are not entitled to the separate confinement, which belongs to the punishment of the felon. It is not supposed that they have directly taken from others what was not their own, or committed great personal violence; but they have shown themselves incapable of resisting the demand of inordinate appetites, and, indifferent to the claims of domestic and social life, become, not by misfortune nor felony, but by idleness and vice, a burthen to society as well as a disgrace to themselves. They need a place where confinement will preclude the possibility of intoxication, and labor prevent them from living at the expense of their neighbors; and where confinement and labor united, will punish their offence and afford a chance for their amendment. Both are their dues: as idle vagabonds and drunkards they deserve punishment—as human beings, made in the image of God, with powers and faculties capable of good, they are entitled to that consideration from the humane which shall at once awaken them to a feeling sense of their wrong doing, if drunkards, or of their not doing, if vagrants, and which shall, by coercing them into steady labor, convince them that they are yet capable of good.

A house of labor, where the idle and dissolute can be hidden from society and compelled to earn their living, seems then to be demanded by the safety of society, and by the danger of those who ought to be its inmates, by all considerations of sound policy and true humanity, and by the laws of the Commonwealth.

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## INTEMPERANCE.

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Drunkenness is, perhaps, quite as prevalent now as it was last year. One year makes but little difference in so widespread and obstinate a habit. Certainly we notice no diminution in the number of places where intoxication is professedly supplied, at the lowest admissible rate. But it is possible that the immense duties placed on the importation of foreign spirits, and the severe direct tax levied upon liquor of home distillation, will diminish the number of those who would *commence* the habit. Already it is noticeable at the County Prison, that while the number of cases of drunkenness is a little diminished, the complaints of the female drunkards give notice that they will not long be able to procure the means for complete intoxication. "It is hard," said some of these miserable women, "that, having encountered the disgrace of habitual drunken-

ness, we are not able to have the small benefit which may be supposed to result from such a relinquishment of all claim to respectability. Pawning one half of our garments would serve to get us drunk, at almost any rum hole, and we should have the remainder in which to come decently, though drunk, to the prison. It now takes every rag for a regular carouse, and we have to be indebted to the charity of the rum-seller for a piece of torn blanket in which to be presented to the magistrate."

Whether the high tax will lead to a more temperate use of intoxicating drink in the young, we do not know, though we think it may. But nothing will stand between the intoxicating draught and the existing female drunkard. Soul—alas! the soul seems of little value; the body and all its faculties and fixtures are sacrificed to the irrepressible thirst for liquor.

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## MAGISTRACY.

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We gave, last year, at full length, the views which the Society entertained of the evils arising out of the present mode of appointing and compensating the magistrates of the city. We could add but little to the force of those remarks, excepting to adduce new instances of the evils which we then depicted. Those instances are abundant.

Within the year a change has taken place in the persons of the "*committing magistracy*," and that change will be productive of good only as any one of the newly elected magistrates may be a better man, or a sounder lawyer, or a purer magistrate than was he whose place he is called to fill. The system is unchanged, and the evil is chiefly in the system—not in the men; and hence we cannot hope that the evil is to be in any considerable degree abated. The best police magistrate has to get his compensation from fees: the miserable stipend of six hundred dollars is of little avail. He *can* make the fees an object, and hence whenever he demands those fees, he exposes himself to the charge of extortion or unkindness; and though there may be little truth in the charge, yet it is made and heard where the maker's respect for justice leads to the belief that the offence need not be regarded, if the cost can be paid. Few persons think how much small matters affect the public mind when their influence is correspondent with a prevailing proclivity.

## MEMBERS.

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In the last Report, we gave one division to the "Deceased Members" for the previous year. It is a cause of grateful acknowledgment to the Director of all events, that we are not called on to commence this year with a notice of similar deprivation for the past twelve months: though the fact that so many are spared, and some of them beyond the usual term of human life, should teach us that, in the probabilities of events, more of our number must cease from their labors the ensuing year, and leave to the younger survivors the mournful duty of connecting the names of the dead with the works of the living.

Whatever may be the regret of the Society at the loss of any of those who have endeared themselves to their brother members by their devotion to the cause of humanity in prisons, it is a consolation to be allowed to hope that their example will continue to affect the survivors, and that, as the torch is passed on from hand to hand, it will lose none of its power to impart heat or afford light.

The lustre of the great and good names that have marked our list of members should not lead those now active, to suppose themselves, or at least their companions, incapable of achieving equal goodness.

We do not always judge well of contemporary efforts. It is only when time has set its seal upon labors and

their results, that we learn to estimate their character and appreciate those who have given themselves to the work. The cause in which we are engaged is good. It has upon it the earliest blessings of the Author and Rewarder of all good; and, however feeble may be our efforts, we know that, if in the right direction, they will be blessed and rewarded; and however unnoticed may be our labors, the great good that we attempt and something that we may achieve, will at some future time produce, if not good considerations to ourselves, at least benefit to the afflicted, and perhaps be the means of recalling to virtue those whose neglect or misfortune had been an occasion of error. If we live, then, we live to labor in a good cause; if we die, we shall leave an example, if not of great results, at least of good resolves and humane efforts.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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The Society maintains a correspondence with other associations and with individuals engaged in labors similar to its own; and it is usually in receipt of valuable Reports of prison directors and committees from other parts of this country, and from Great Britain and France. The receipt of these official reports have,

from some cause, been delayed, so that their instructive contents must be used for some future Report of the Society.

The subjoined letter from Francis Lieber, L. L. D., now a Professor in the New York University, shows the value which that distinguished philosopher and philanthropist puts upon the plans and labors of our Society ; and we give it entire, that all who labor with us or for us, and all who wish well to our efforts, may have their hands strengthened, their hopes increased and their sympathies augmented, by the testimony of one whose character, studies and pursuits give great weight to his opinions.

***Dr. Lieber's Letter on County Jails.***

NEW YORK, *January 25, 1865.*

MY DEAR SIR:—My interest in prison discipline and the redemption of criminals has not, as you justly suppose, diminished. It is as lively and sincere as in the times when Crawford and De Tocqueville came to this country to study the great subject. While I lived in the South, I made several attempts to awaken there an interest in this cause, which must remain one of the most important affairs of humanity, as long as there shall be crime, and there must be punishment on the one hand, and on the other hand, as long as society means to do right by the offender, that is to say, at any rate, not to make him worse by vicious association and irrational punishment, after conviction, than he was when convicted, and, if possible, to make him a better and a wiser man by reformation. But my attempts at the South were unsuccessful, although I found many sympathizing friends. Since I have returned to the North, I have been made a member of the New York Prison Association, and am as active as you knew me when I was with you, and when we endeavored to improve, among others, the county jails. To judge from your letter to Governor Curtin, and the one of

January 20th, you have made no great progress, in this particular, in your State. I am sorry to say that the county jails in the State of New York are in a condition which must be called deplorable, as will plainly appear in the Annual Report of our Society to the Legislature, and of which a copy shall be sent to you. It is one of the prominent endeavors of the Society to direct the attention of the Legislature to this all-important subject, and to carry reform into those spots of uncleanness and vicious contagion neglected by the community, and disgraceful to it in proportion.

It is with county jails as with all the humbler institutions or objects in any sphere of human action, or endeavor of reform. Because humbler, they attract less attention, or attract it at a late period only; yet because lowlier and far more numerous and more elementary, they are also all the more important.

When prison discipline first came to attract our attention, you will recollect that it was the large State prisons which almost exclusively occupied the reformers. I fear this is still the case in almost the same degree. Yet, extending reform to the large State prisons only, or chiefly, is very much like a systematic education which should occupy itself with the Universities and Observatories, and leave the Grammar and Primary Schools unattended to; or it would resemble the state of architecture in Ancient Athens. There were glorious temples and other public buildings, but the streets that led from one to the other were filthy and narrow, and formed by low and paltry dwelling houses.

Just as we have directed beneficent attention to our schools where the A B C and the multiplication table are taught, so the Americans are obliged to direct their attention to the improvement of the county jails, if they mean to walk manfully on the path of sincere and essential progress.

The present period in the history of prison discipline is not a favorable one. Thirty years ago and more, there existed, as you well remember, a general ardor—I might perhaps say enthusiasm—with which prison discipline was treated. Even lawyers and judges—generally the last to take an interest in a criminal, so soon as the existing doubt of his conviction had been settled—were among our active fellow-laborers. Periodicals on prison discipline were published; works on the subject found publishers, because these knew that the books



would find readers. It is not so now. Whether it is that the charm of novelty has passed away, or that the bad administration of justice has blunted the feelings of the people with reference to penal matters, or that even the administration of State prisons and county jails has been drawn into the vortex of low party politics, or that, finally, the great civil war absorbs all attention, except, indeed, that which is directed to amusements, certain it is that the community takes no interest in prison reform comparable to that of former times. As to county jails, very few, indeed, even think of them. But is not all this a stronger reason to increase our efforts, and to labor assiduously and perseveringly in a cause in which ambition can expect no prize and neediness no great reward?

I am always, as in olden times, your faithful friend,

FRANCIS LIEBER.

JAMES J. BARCLAY, Esq, President }  
Prison Discipline Society, Phila. }

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## PARDON.

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In considering the various modes of alleviating the miseries of public prisons, it is most natural that attention should be drawn towards the exercise of that power which is lodged by the Constitution of the country, and by the Constitutions of most, if not of all the States, in some person or body, of pardoning the convict, and restoring him to society and the opportunity of redeeming his time and himself. The Reports of the Society

have from time to time set forth the views which have influenced its most active members in urging upon the Executive of this Commonwealth, with whom rests the power of pardon, the exercise of his official clemency. There are cases occurring, in both of the great prisons in the city, which seem to unite all in wishes, and the more active in efforts, for the pardon of the convict. There are also cases in which, from a different view of the circumstances of the offence, and of the character of the offender, there is not a hearty concurrence among the members of the Society, in favoring the wishes of applicants. Each one, of course, does as his conscience dictates, and gives or withholds assistance, as he may think best for the cause of humanity as connected with justice.

But of the great propriety—it may almost be said, the absolute duty—of a pardoning power somewhere in the government of the State, there seems to be no difference of opinion. Experience shows that it is absolutely necessary to the proper administration of justice, to say nothing of the proper dispensation of mercy, as a reward and encouragement to virtue. That the power may be abused, none can doubt. That it has been implored for, and exercised upon, improper objects, it cannot be denied: The return of the culprit to his cell, after a few months' absence by pardon, or his promotion from the county prison to the State penitentiary, after a few months' liberty, used only to repeat or augment his criminality, is what all have to acknowledge who look to the condition of our prisons. And those who have been most active in procuring the exercise of Executive clemency

in behalf of some young offender, whose open confession of his crimes seemed to warrant credit to his profession of repentance and amendment, have been most deeply mortified at meeting their protégé of the county prison in the cell of the penitentiary.

It is difficult to measure the strength and purity of the repentance of a convict. The remembrance of former liberty, the sight of the cold, cheerless walls of the prison cell, the pleasure with which he hails the appearance of an occasional visitor, contrasted with the constant common enjoyment of society abroad, with simple fare and steady work, or, what is worse, with entire idleness to make these reflections the more bitter, all tend to make the offender regret, if not his crime, at least his detection, and to mistake and misrepresent that regret as a sincere repentance that includes resolves for amendment.

This state of things naturally leads the philanthropic visitor to wish to give the poor fellow another chance; and the wishes of relatives and friends of the prisoner move in the same direction. Nor must we suppose that the prisoner is not sincere in his resolves. He sees from what a position he has fallen. The exclusion of the companions that promoted and shared his crime, the absence of all enjoyments to serve as rewards to faults, the continued kind monitions of his moral instructors, serve to give a disgust for the acts and for the companions that have led him into the prison cell; and he naturally, on such a view, is willing to

“Try what repentance can do.”

He is deceived, himself; it is not strange, therefore, that he should deceive others. His appetite for vice seems corrected—virtue, therefore, must be easy. He only asks for liberty and a place to stand, and he will raise—if not the world, at least himself.

Of this class of facile persons a large portion, on obtaining their liberty by pardon, look round for the place upon which to stand. The resolutions which they had formed in darkness and in solitude do not stand the test of light and evil companions. The repentance which they professed, and which they thought they felt, involved no resolution as to future sacrifice. They await, in vain, the immediate confidence of good men—confidence is of slow growth. The vicious are ready to receive them. They cannot wait longer for the good, and so they yield.

There seems to be a certain amount of time necessary for the repentance of the depraved. The resolve to amendment is soon formed and warmly expressed; but the thorough, permanent amendment, demands time—more time than is usually spent by the incarcerated. They succeed in making their friends dupes of the same feelings by which they themselves are animated, and a pardon is sought of the Governor of the State, and the application enforced by direct personal appeals. And it is usually expected that the “visitors” of the Society who have sought to alleviate the condition of the prisoner, will complete their work, by using all their influence and persuasion to procure the Executive clemency in his behalf. So general is this feeling, that astonishment is often expressed that the members of the Society

should hesitate to lead or second the movement which tends towards the fulfilment of the convict's wish to be pardoned. And there are many persons who seem to think that in all cases the active members of the Society stand ready to assist in procuring the release of an accused, or the pardon of a convict. And it is quite probable that the Society and its objects have suffered in the estimation of many good citizens, from such an erroneous opinion. It may therefore be an act of justice to the Society and to the public, that the matter be placed in its true light, so that those who expect help to escape deserved punishment, from unrepented acts, may look elsewhere for their aid, and that those good persons who may have erred in their estimate of the Society, may correct their opinions by better knowledge of its aims and proceedings.

It is not the intention of those who legislate for the Commonwealth, that the penalties for offences shall exceed the criminality of the offence; nor is it their expectation, nor the desire of those for whom they legislate, that crime should go unpunished. The latter feeling, however, sanctions no cruelty—the former justifies no exercise of false philanthropy. A healthy practical feeling of humanity is that which pervades the laws of Pennsylvania; and while this Society believes it has not been without influence in promoting that feeling, it means to distinguish itself especially by its gentle, firm, respectful interference in the behalf of the execution of the good laws, in the same spirit in which they are enacted. If the maxim "*Judex damnatur cum absolvere nocens*," be good, viz., that the Judge is to be condemned,

when the criminal is allowed to escape due punishment, scarcely less is the condemnation deserved by those who would interfere between the unrepentant prisoner and his prescribed and deserved punishment. This Society neither moves nor authorizes movements in that direction. It has a word of kindness for the guilty; but it is that kindness which would make him profit by his confinement, rather than to sit and hope for influences to procure his release. They seek to alleviate the miseries of his condition, by making his separation from general society a means of reflecting upon the errors of a course which placed him in a hostile attitude to that society, and made him obnoxious to the severe operations of its penal laws. The Society has used its influence to secure that kind of imprisonment which shall separate the offender from the vicious, and which admits of a constant application of moral suasion, and opens the hope by rational means of moral improvement. The Society has no direct influence in making the laws of the Commonwealth; but its members, as citizens, have the right that is possessed by others, of seeking to influence penal legislation to what is deemed a practical corrective operation. The Society, for ordinary felony, does not recommend that class of sentences which seems to condemn all of active life to punishment, and to shut out all motive to sound repentance by excluding all hope of any future time in which to show the sincerity of that repentance. But the time being fixed within reasonable bounds, it has not seemed best that the offender should be withdrawn from the salutary discipline of the law, merely because restraint is inconve-

nient to him, or imprisonment dishonorable to his relations, still less upon a bald profession of regret—of a regret, really, more often for detection than crime—or a profession of repentance which is unsustained by any reliable plans for future improvement. To intervene in such cases would be an injustice to the community of which this Society believes itself incapable.

But, it may be asked, “if all these objections lie against pardons, what circumstances may be pleaded as justifying an application for Executive clemency?”

It is believed that there are no rules on the subject that may be regarded as of universal application, excepting, perhaps, the rare, though not unknown instance, of a discovery of the entire innocence of the prisoner; that must be regarded as a reason fully justifying, nay, a circumstance requiring, earnest application for the release of the convict, and there will be neither delay nor hesitancy in the Executive to release the sufferer.

It sometimes happens that, in a crowd of burglars arrested and convicted, and sentenced all to the same extent of imprisonment, it is discovered that one was either deluded into the offence, or had advanced so little in crime as to feel the disgrace of his situation, not more on account of his detection and imprisonment, than for the wrong which he had committed against society. A deep sense of the evil, and hearty repentance, manifested to the satisfaction of several persons, and especially the fact that the crime for which the repentant is suffering, was the first of his committing—not, let it be distinctly understood—not, that the punishment he is enduring is the first to which he has been

sentenced ; for we know that the cities abound with men who contrive, and assist in all kinds of felony, and yet have the art to avoid arrest and conviction. The young offender who can plead his first offence, and satisfy others of the sincerity of his repentance, may hope that he may justly be spared a few years of the long sentence which was pronounced upon him and his veteran companions in crimes, always supposing that the whole sentence was long. Mitigating circumstances are often pleaded without much real claim to consideration, but they sometimes exist, and then they deserve attention. But the improvement of the offender is of more consequence to him than a few months' liberty ; and the very object of criminal jurisprudence, viz., the safety of society, is concerned in that restraint which shall lead to the amendment of the prisoner's life, and either keep or withdraw from the public eye, one who is an enemy to public order, or to return him to society cleansed from the pollution which made him dangerous to others as well as injurious to himself.

Some months since, a person condemned to a considerably long term, for passing a counterfeit note, (it was afterwards ascertained that he had only that one, and had received and passed it during a drunken frolic,) exhibited symptoms of rapid consumption. He was kindly treated, allowed to take the air, and was otherwise regarded rather as a patient than a culprit. Death approached—decent relatives saw that his end was near, and with a pardonable pride, they asked that the few days betwixt that and the death of the prisoner might be made endurable, that they need not suffer the morti-



fication of receiving his body from a public prison—from a criminal cell; that indeed they might be at liberty to smooth down the pillow of death, and secure to the dying the spiritual and physical aid and consolation that only the dying can receive. Those relatives asked some of the officers of the Society to solicit the Governor of the State to pardon the man, that he might die at home, and the request was granted. The solicitation proved effective, of course, and the poor man, who was the first of his family that had ever occupied a criminal cell, and who himself was occupying it for his first offence, was pardoned—was conveyed to his relatives in a mode that gave no prying neighbors a suspicion as to the place whence he came—was placed on the bed which was surrounded by female kindred, and made happy, even in the presence of death, by their affectionate solicitude and the growing hopes of bliss beyond the grave. These comforts protracted life some few days, and the *erring* man—*criminal*, indeed, in his intemperance, if not in the act for which he was imprisoned—left life with an expression of gratitude for, and blessing upon, those who had interfered in his behalf; and those interested in his comfort and welfare blessed the effort that snatched their brother from the felon's cell, and allowed him to die in the decency which deprives death of some of its terrors.

We need not multiply instances in which, with great propriety, because with entire justice to the community, interference to procure the pardon of the convict may be sanctioned by the Society.

It is deemed necessary here to state distinctly, that

the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, long since, foreseeing the inconvenience which would result to itself, and the hinderance which might be produced to its legitimate efforts, by a contrary course, expressed its determination not to interfere officially, or as a Society, in the question of pardoning prisoners. It leaves such proceedings to the judgment of its individual members, whose personal knowledge of the circumstances of the offender might induce them to co-operate with others in securing Executive clemency on behalf of the deserving.

It may be remarked here, that while the Society hopes to influence its members by the excellence of its plans, or to unite to its councils those who may share in its views, it neither expects entire uniformity in the opinions of all who unite in its labors, nor holds itself accountable for what some of its members may think they are bound by justice or mercy to effect. The platform of the Society is ample for all who would assist in the great purpose of alleviating the miseries of public prisons. Some who unite for that purpose have a zeal for some special good works, which, without being within the rules of the Society, cannot nevertheless be opposed to our general plan, simply because they *are* "good works."

With regard to the views of some of the officers, and as setting at rest the erroneous idea that the Society is less discriminating than it should be in regard to interference in behalf of prisoners, it is deemed not impertinent to add to this chapter a letter, which (omitting certain names of persons and places for obvious reasons)

will give some idea of the views which pervade the active members, and which will probably be approved of by those who contribute their money, without their presence, to sustain this institution.

It is proper to preface this letter with a history of its origin. A lady, residing in another State, made known by letter to the President of the Society, the history of the crime of a young man who had been for some time a tenant of the penitentiary of that State, and requested suggestions as to the best mode of assisting the offender, when she should have procured his pardon, which she had ascertained would be granted by the Governor of the State. The President asked the *views* of another officer of the Society upon the question as propounded by the distant correspondent. These views are contained in the subjoined letter, rather too extended for our present purpose, but as they seem to be acceptable, they are given at large, as a general statement of the opinion of the Society on the important subject of Pardons.

*Philadelphia, January 1865.*

JAMES J. BARCLAY, Esq. :

I have received your note of the 25th, accompanying the letter to you from Mrs. ———, and I hasten to comply with your request for my opinion upon the case which that lady presents for your consideration and advice. I do this because you ask me to do it—not because I think I shall add anything to the correctness of your views.

It appears that a young man, a native of Europe, after having committed forgery, while a lad, in his native country, came to ———, N. Y., and was kindly received into a family, solely on account of his want of friends and means of support; that a situation was found for him in the office of a chemist, and that some difficulty arose betwixt him and his employer, on account of his neglect of the duties of his

station, and, in revenge, the young man, so received into the house of benevolent strangers, and so provided for, stole articles of value from his employer, and then, to conceal his turpitude, set fire to the building which had contained the goods he stole. For the crime of theft and arson the young man was sentenced to four and a half years imprisonment in Sing Sing; and now the kind person who knew of his crime in Europe—who tried to save him in ———, desires to know from you what kind of treatment and employment are best for the culprit, should she succeed in her efforts to procure from the Governor of the State a special pardon for the offender.

The question of treatment and employment of a person who has been guilty of such heinous offences, is one of much importance with regard to both humanity and morals, and one which I am sure you could answer better than I can. But why consider that *first*? The primary question is one of pardon. Why seek to save the offender from the punishment which the law allows and the court has awarded? It is said the prisoner, in his letters, expresses "a wish and a desire to become better." That is, of course, the consequence of punishment. The same wish was probably expressed to avoid or to lessen the punishment for his offence of forgery.

Has there been any manifestation of deep repentance of the crimes committed—any unmistakable tokens of sound resolve of *reparation* and amendment? Is it evident that the crimes of theft and arson, for which he is now suffering, are not the further development of the bad principles by which that of forgery was perpetrated? Forgery is usually committed for the sake of money; it is a mean action, and is practised to gratify a dirty appetite, or to conceal other frauds. In the case before us, it could, from the age of the offender, have scarcely had any other motive than a desire to procure money; but it denoted a great moral debasement or a total want of moral principle. The crimes for which he is now suffering, show only the progress of that debasement, in stealing from his employer, and an augmentation of criminal propensity and ingenuity, in setting fire to the office which he had robbed, with a view of concealing his crime. It will certainly not diminish the turpitude of his act, to say that some motive of revenge, on account of compensation withheld, influenced him in his arson and theft, because such a motive of action would only show him

more and more dangerous to Society, because it would show him subject to the influence of malignant passions, as well as a criminal cupidity. There can be no doubt that the prisoner has been justly sentenced; and, believing so, there should be great prudence exercised in encouraging him to hope for a pardon. He is put in prison not merely because he stole articles of value and then set fire to an occupied building—but, chiefly, that articles of value may not be stolen, and occupied buildings may not be set on fire. In this respect I have been noticing only the violation of the perfect rights of society, and the young man's just punishment for the violation of those rights. His moral condition may be inferred from his total neglect of the imperfect rights of his benefactors. They had a right to expect, in consideration for their kindness to a stranger, other returns than they have received in his conduct, though they had not the ability to enforce a consideration of their rights, nor the power to prevent a violation of them. A neglect of these imperfect rights often denotes, even more truly than crime, a low state of moral perception. There are temptations which sometimes seem to palliate crime, and the exercise of the perfect right to punish seems often to settle the account of the criminal; but where indifference to the feelings of benefactors—where base ingratitude marks the course of the offender, we are justified in fearing that there is in the depth of the heart an amount of corruption that is not to be removed by ordinary chastisement, and is rather concealed than cured by the profession of early repentance.

The repentance which is produced in the cell is always to be distrusted, though we know that it is often permanent. But experience shows that it is long before the habits of a bad life, outward and inward, are lost, or their influence neutralized. The experience in prisons here leads to the belief that reasonably long sentences are as necessary to the reformation of the criminal as they are to the punishment of the crime. And the reports of investigations of prison discipline in England, and of the effect of that discipline upon the conduct of convicts, show that time is as necessary as confinement—time to deepen, as well as cause, impressions—time to examine and fix resolutions; as well as to form them—time to test the character and depth of repentance, as well as to awaken repentance, in the heart of the prisoner—time to satisfy the unconvicted and the yet innocent, that punishment

bears some relation to offence, and is meant principally to *fix*, and not merely to suggest, improvement.

It may be mercy, sometimes, to save from conviction and imprisonment the young offender, and spare him the degradation of a convict's cell; but when once he is justly there, and the disgrace is incurred and imposed, it is injustice to the community, as well as unkindness to him, to send him forth with the first expression of bitter regret, and the first ray of dawning repentance. There is usually a general debasement of the moral faculties, that accompanies a penitentiary offence, and the true friend of the criminal will not be careful merely to promote regret for the particular offence for which the convict immediately suffers, but he will seek to give healthy energy to the entire mind, and a new delicacy to the whole conscience. The regret, the sorrow of a prisoner, where it goes beyond the sense of punishment, is mostly confined to the act for which the punishment is inflicted; and the penitence manifested seems never to include the debased motives and the corrupted principles from which that particular act proceeded, and which would have suggested and sanctioned any other crime to which, in different circumstances, he might have been exposed. There is always in short sentences by the Court, or hasty pardons by the Executive, a danger that the moral application to the prisoner will be only topical, not reaching beyond the exposed crime, and leaving him liable to assault from every untried experience of evil.

What we seek by separate and protracted confinement, is a reformation, or rather, a purification, of moral principles. We want to have the motives of action exposed to the offender, and to make him comprehend the importance to him of a sound, healthful view of his obligations to society, to himself, and to God. This cannot be expected, if he is to hope for release from confinement at any moment when he chooses to express deep compunction for the act for which he is imprisoned. The encouragement of such a hope is an invitation to hypocrisy—it is a dangerous, perhaps even culpable, tampering with the ends of criminal law; and sad experience shows that the injudicious interference of humane people to procure the pardon of a convicted felon, has only served to place him in a condition to renew his depredations on society with augmented ingenuity and injury, though occasionally, especially if he be young, in some channel different from that

in which he had been detected. Hence some old offenders leave England to escape further punishment, and crossing the Atlantic, come into our cities, not to become honest citizens, not even to change the character of their criminal pursuits, but only to practise them with greater facility and less risk of detection. *Cælum non animum mutant qui transmare current.*

What I mean to say is, that generally our courts are sufficiently merciful, and that the highest views of sound philanthropy, in behalf of a convicted criminal, include protracted separate confinement as a means of moral improvement; and generally it may be said that a truly repentant convict is rarely anxious to anticipate the time of his release. However sweet to him may be the sense of liberty, he will be restrained in his desire, by a sense of the dangers which society presents to his newly formed resolutions, especially if those resolutions are the result of sincere repentance for the particular crime that caused his incarceration, and if he has sought to correct his former erroneous perceptions of right.

There can be no general rule for granting pardons. Each case ought to rest upon its own merits. But then it ought to have merits; and the sincerity of all professions of repentance ought to be judged of, not by the earnestness—the violence with which they are made, but partly, at least, by the mental character of the subject as exhibited in his former life.

I do not know anything of the person in whose behalf your correspondent addresses you, beyond what is set forth in her earnest and well-written letter; but to judge from the facts which she has therein presented, the convict must be at all times especially exposed to danger while in the world—not merely from the temptations to err which are common to active business life, but especially from the weakness of his powers of resistance. At fourteen he committed forgery. Later in life he receives marked favor from a family upon whom he had no claim. They procure for him a situation, respectable from the character of the employment and from the confidence implied in the responsibility conferred. He steals from his employer, and to hide that part of his crime, he sets fire to the building, to destroy what he had left unpillaged.

I do not overlook the fact that your correspondent does not ask your

opinion so much upon the question whether she shall procure the pardon of the offender, as upon that of the treatment which he ought to have when that pardon shall have been obtained. But as it is evident that the lady is anxious to do good to her protégé, I have thought it not irrelevant to consider the propriety of that first step, which seems to have been resolved on at any rate, without a sufficient inquiry whether that same step will not be the means of defeating the very object of good which, I am sure, she is desirous of securing.

I have already stated that, in my opinion, every application for pardon to a convict must be judged of separately—must be tested by its merits. Let me add here parenthetically, that no abuse of the pardoning power should be considered as justifying its abrogation. That power will sometimes be indiscriminately used, less from a want of judgment in the source, than from injudicious zeal in the recommender or applicant. But oh! the power itself, how beautiful! so like God's! so calculated to arrest a judicial wrong, or promote a moral right! Let it never be withdrawn. May it never be hastily and improperly exercised. But every application, we say, must rest upon its own merit. If that is so then, *a fortiori* every mode of assisting the late tenant of the cell, whether his time be accomplished or he be pardoned, must be adapted to his idiosyncrasies, to the circumstances of his former life, and to his taste or ability for employment, the power to resist temptation, the force of former associations, the apparent sincerity and depth of his repentance, and his ability to *do*.

In the case presented, we have the early habits, we have the character of mind, and we have at least a partial history of the crimes of the prisoner who is to be released, and for whom a friend would do something; and that she may do it well, she asks your advice as it regards the kind of aid and the mode of administering it.

The taste of the young man for music and for painting, or his ability to continue his labors as a jeweller, should be consulted, but especially should inquiry be made as to the probable effect of association, should he pursue the two first, or of the danger, in the way of temptation, in the occupation as a jeweller. But his mind, his moral faculties, are to be dealt with. And how? What hope is there of success—of redeeming the offender from his unhappy proclivity to vice, of restoring him to active virtue, and making him useful to himself and society?



On this part of the subject it will be proper to notice a feature of the prisoner's character, presented in the letter which you received. He seems to be inert—to lack energy for action, and only to resort to crime when strong circumstances suggest the benefit of forgery or theft, or the gratification of arson. This is a bad quality. Medical writers speak of the difficulty of healing *indolent* sores; and moral observers come to the conclusion that active evil propensities are more easily corrected than are those which only move with events. The vessel which is propelled upon the river by sail or steam, is easily directed from the helm; but when it only moves with the current, it never answers the rudder, and is liable to be cast upon the shore, or swept upon any shoal or rock that may lie in the channel. The erring active mind may be directed into a good course by persuasion, by argument or by interest, and be sustained therein until habit shall become a principle, or until virtue shall come to be recognized as the best policy.

This negative property of the prisoner's mind seems to me to be eminently worthy of regard in a consideration of the propriety of seeking for a pardon, and especially of the means of securing to him some mode of obtaining a virtuous living.

I cannot think that the antecedents of this young man justify any hopes of his future usefulness, if he be left to the ordinary temptations of society, even with a consciousness of high resolves, from a sense of sincere repentance. He ought to be willing to accept of aid that includes some exclusion from society, and some evidence of a withholding of confidence. Indeed *he* ought to cherish that distrust, and be grateful to those who would hedge his way up with affectionate caution and constantly operating monitions. Such a man as, judging from the lady's letter to you, I think the prisoner to be, must not be sent unguarded into society—must not be told the prison doors are open, and, there is “the world before you where to choose, and Providence your guide.” Whatever may be his employment, he needs constant watching, constant affectionate monition. His own vigilance must be stimulated, and his special weakness be constantly guarded. Such a man as he, with such a ductility of character, may be fully *saved* from further wrong-doing, if he can be made to lean upon the arm of one whom he respects, and whom he knows to be possessed of a knowledge of his

weakness and its bitter fruits—of his mental character and all its developments.

I do not advise the pardon of such a person, unless there are (and there may be) some circumstances of which I may be uninformed. If he should be pardoned, the hopes of benefit from his release rest upon the mode at which I have hinted above.

But if he should not be pardoned—if he should be left to serve out the whole term of the sentence? Then mature reflection may strengthen repentance and resolve, and deepen both the disgust at crime and the determination to follow virtue. Plans can be submitted to the consideration of friends, and judgment matured, upon their advice. But most of all, the prisoner may be taught to understand that imprisonment and degradation are consequences as well as punishments for crime, and he must be made to feel compunction, and acknowledge that there is a providence in his incarceration. He ought to feel that God, through society, has been offended at his misconduct, and that God, as his Father and his judge, has been outraged in him, by the violation of his duties as a man. He must understand that he ought first to taste the evils that he has brought upon himself by his errors; and he ought to feel that these compunctions are results of legal punishment, rather than the effects of any prompt rebuke of his conscience, and he should therefore be willing, and others should be willing for him, to endure longer the condition that has wrought the resolution to do right—to endure it till that resolution is strengthened into an unflinching purpose. The sentence of the Court is the revenge of a violated law and the security of an outraged society. The prisoner and his friends, if they will submit humbly, patiently and prayerfully to the sentence, may make it the means of restoring in his soul the image of God, and preparing him for usefulness in that which remains to him of life, and fitting him, by the durability of their labor and his sufferings, for happiness in the life that is to come.

There is an error in the estimate which many persons make of the plans and services of the Society of which you are the honored head. These persons seem to think that, because we would alleviate the miseries of prisons, we must necessarily seek to shorten the duration of imprisonment. That result may follow, indeed—nay, as it relates to the release, it has followed as a natural result of our labors; but so far as

relates to the individual, it is not the aim of the Society. The law partakes of the humanity of the age, and legislation is influenced by the growing sense of philanthropy, which is a consequence of well-directed zeal in the cause of the prisoner. The efforts of the Society are to alleviate the miseries of prisons—not to shorten, arbitrarily, the term of sentence; it is to make that term, whether long or short, a time for reflection in the prisoner, and, by the assistance of his friendly resolves, to direct that reflection so that it shall result in his improvement; to see that, while the sentence pronounced against the prisoner is carried out by the officers of the prison, that there is neither cruelty nor neglect, to augment the punishment; and where the kindness and the care of the visitor have produced evidence of repentance, and the time for leaving the prison shall have arrived, then to assist the virtuous efforts of the late occupant of the cell, and aid him, by means and position, and evidence of continued interest in his behalf, to fulfil his resolution of amendment.

I have said less, perhaps, about the very point at which your correspondent aims, than of that which she deems determined and just,—less of what should be done for the young man when he shall have been pardoned, then upon the question whether he shall be pardoned; because “*that* is the question.” If he is *fit* to be pardoned, much less consideration may be given to his circumstances when he shall go forth. If the reformation be complete, he can take pretty good care of himself. If it be not complete, then the pardon is premature, at least; perhaps unjust and unmerciful. The system which I think you would recommend, and upon which I would act, would be to make sure of the reformation rather than the pardon,—to deal affectionately, kindly, candidly with the prisoner; so that a little more imprisonment would be of small account, when compared with the benefit of reflection upon repentance, rather than reflection upon punishment.

The friends of the prisoner too often consult their own feelings and family credit, or, if they are not his relatives, then their own purity and sincerity. They take his promises, because he reiterates them, and because they know that his true interest is to *be* and to *do* good. Let them consider the immense consequence to the convict of unimpeached and unimpeachable conduct, *after* imprisonment, and they will not hurry the convalescence nor augment the terrible risk

of "going out" too early. Every way he must be followed with kindness and aid ; but in proportion to the time for repentance and good plans, will be the hope, the confidence of those who feel an interest in his success, and perhaps a responsibility for his acts.

Yours most truly,

J. R. C.

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## WORK FOR WOMEN AND WOMEN FOR WORK.

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None better than those who prepare this Report know what have been the deprivations, toils and painful endurance of a large amount of the "working women of this city," whose husbands or sons, fathers or brothers, have, by going to the war, thrown upon them a new responsibility, as well as an additional burthen, to maintain themselves and their dependants. Inquiry has brought to light cases of severe suffering, and beautiful instances of honorable endurance, of almost overpowering efforts to sustain position, and of christian resignation to the circumstances in which Providence had placed them. These women form the rule, they are of the greatest number, they make up the class that command respect for their glorious efforts to rise above the evil of their condition, or failing, even in their exertion to sustain themselves fully in a social state or domestic comfort.

They command the admiration of all who know them, by their successful resistance of every temptation which disappointment, suffering and deprivation throw in their way; and by maintaining the dignified character of VIRTUOUS WOMEN, they confirm and augment the respect to which their sex entitles them.

It is not with the large class of women that we have business in our labors or our report. They have no relation with the prison, unless by the errors of others, or accidental improper association. These we meet with there, and seek to relieve them. But the miseries of public prisons are chiefly the result of vice and crime; and these, we have said, have of late been greatly augmented by the unhappy state of our country. But so also the virtuous laboring woman has her difficulties augmented by the public calamity of war; and the only mitigation of the difficulties which result to these women from the evils of war, is found in the necessities of the war. Deprived of the aid of husband, father or son, called to the army, these women have found the means of meagre support in making up the clothing required for the army. But, unfortunately, with every new demand for labor has come a new supply of laborers, and the contractors for supplying garments have secured their contracts by "underbidding," and then saved themselves from loss, by reducing to a most disgraceful minimum the price which they would give for making the garments; and much suffering, perhaps some vice, has resulted from this great and persistent diminution of earnings, and the constant augmentation of the rivalry to obtain the work.

Should it be asked what concern the Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Prisons can have with the business of making clothes for the army, and what relation the price of women's work upon those clothes has to this Report, we answer, directly, none at all, when the mere mercantile ideas of demand and supply are under consideration, or when the difference between rich food and clothing, and simple diet and plain dress is the question. But when the subject of female labor touches morals as well as domestic economy; or rather, when the price of that labor augments the temptations to vice, and drives some to the commission of crimes, then the whole subject, in all its bearings, commends itself to the careful regard of this Society, and becomes a legitimate theme for discussion.

In former Reports we have said that "one of the most efficient means of alleviating the miseries of public prisons, is to diminish the number of prisoners." If it be found that a want of employment, appropriate, compensating employment for females, is a means of driving them into vice and crime, and thus to the prison, then the Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Prisons is legitimately engaged, when it undertakes the consideration of the question, "how the earnings of females may be fully compensated," and, in that direction, and for that end, "how the customary occupations of working women may be redeemed from erroneous appreciation," and "how new modes of employment, new kinds of labor, may be opened to them, so that competition in their present limited pursuit may be so lessened as to insure a full demand and a fair remuneration."

We do not suppose that any efforts of philanthropists are to do more than to limit or slightly diminish the number of occupants of our city prison cells : they will never empty them. There are those whose headlong proclivity to vice seems irresistible. They have no taste for virtue and virtuous habits, and they seem to have a certain pride in their disgraceful position. They will be bad, and they must be punished. They are the purging off of our social compact. They multiply and grow worse in the dense population of a large city, as the vegetable fungi augment in size and number in the shade and moisture of a crowded forest. Nor is this all. Among the thousands that monthly seek honest labor and sterling independence in this country from abroad, there are some, even of the female sex, that come to practise in this country the vices that have made them shunned in Europe, and the unlawful arts that had been exposed where they had been longer practised. Our indigenious, with those exotic workers of wrong, will insure to us not only the fulfilment of the assurance that "the poor ye shall have always with you," but the realization of the fear that vice and crime are to demand and receive punishment from every condition of society and in all ages.

With the terrible certainty that vice and crime will abound without any new general cause, it behooves the philanthropist to guard every avenue to those evils which accident may seem to open, and to stay the progress of any custom, or the prevalence of any idea, that tends to weaken the bulwarks of general morals, but especially, and of the highest consideration, which tends

to offer excuse for female error; and hence this distinct reference is had to the subject of female labor and its price, not only in a humanitarian point of view, but also and especially in the interest of social life; and with regard to the proper distinction between virtue and vice, and the results of female errors which lead the perpetrators from error to vice, and from vice to crime, till Society, wearied of the violation of moral order, spurns them from her bosom, and Justice chases them from their wretched haunts, and drives them to the prison cell. It is this *end* of the misdirected course of women that makes them present a proper subject of interest to the Society. We trace them back from the prison, through grades of crime, up to the time in which they were innocent of wrong doing, though perhaps not well established in the right way, and we see that sometimes a want of labor induces a resort to vice—more frequently a want of respect for labor on their part, and a want of respect for laborers on the part of others, have induced them to sport with temptations till their fall became almost a natural consequence of their situation and conduct.

Perhaps one of the causes of female aberration, is a want of diversity of employment, by which they may select that which suits their taste, their education, their strength, or the circumstances of their dependents. It is also true, as it is thought, that the crowding of a vast proportion of working women into one kind of business has tended, not only to reduce the price of their labor, but to diminish their respect for the employment, and to increase the distrust with which it is viewed. Un-



doubtedly this subject is one that concerns the philanthropist, and which especially appeals to the consideration of those who would stay the progress of vice in the world and mitigate the evils of its consequences in prisons.

On this subject much has been done, from time to time, in Europe and in this country ; and lately something has been done, or at least well attempted, in this city ; and we cordially wish success to every effort that gives a new demand for female labor, because it is, we are confident, a great means of preventing female errors.

We believe that there is some truth in the old Spanish proverb, that "The Devil tempts wicked men, but idle men tempt the Devil ;" at least we believe that labor is not merely the means of competence and wealth, but generally it is the cause of health and virtue ; and just in proportion as the resort to vice is facilitated by natural or artificial circumstances, is the danger of all temptation. Thousands who, if constantly and profitably engaged, would have spurned the idea of crime, or even of vice, will, when labor fails, calculate the benefit of misconduct, usually with the mental resolve to abstain from profligacy, and to keep open the door of retreat, whenever virtue shall be more profitable, or vice assume a repulsive form. They rarely return ; but they sin against good resolutions, and thence have a sort of deceptive consolation. Very few women, it is believed, sit down and calculate the difference between vice and virtue, with a view to adopt the former upon grounds of ease and profit. They slide into error, without noticing the decline down which they are passing, and

discover at last that they have drifted away beyond the reach of aid which they would accept. And this great fact must be considered when we regard the efforts of philanthropists to augment the profits of female labor, especially when we see those efforts directed towards the augmentation of the number and variety of employments by which a woman may maintain herself and her dependents, and perhaps "lay up something against a rainy day." For many of these hard-working women find something that is harder than their work. Often it is the want of work, often it is sickness, often it is the worthlessness of those who depend on their labor for the means of bread or vice. Their "rainy day" comes often, and endures; nay, it is not alone the tempest which breaks them down for a time, that constitutes their "rainy day;" there are drunken husbands, faithless friends, and the terrible vicissitude of trade against which they have to provide: when sickness comes and they can no longer seek employment or ply the needle, when there is beneath their feet no sunshine on the pathway, and over their head no rainbow promise of a better morrow, then they seem to realize the mournful thought of the inspired penman, for to them "the clouds return after the rain." God bless the hard-working woman who labors for inadequate pay. God help her who is unable to work; but especially do we say, God bless the hard-working woman who can procure no work. Oh, that is the most terrible of all the labors to which poverty is condemned! Hoc opus hic labor est. In such a trial, God help the widowed mother, or (the worse than widowed) the wife of a drun-

ken husband, whose son is abroad without counsel, whose daughter has the fatal dowry of beauty. And God bless those who would lessen the danger of suffering, diminish the temptation to error, and remove the miserable excuses for crime. God bless those who, knowing the trials of their own sex, sacrifice their ease and their scanty means to multiply the demands for female services, and augment the compensation for their endurance and labors.

The beautiful office assumed by these philanthropists, is one of exalted honor, because of true humanity; it does good, not by reforming the vicious, but by preventing vice—not by diminishing the suffering of prisoners, but by lessening the number of the incarcerated. It breaks not the eleemosynary loaf to professed mendicants, but, by timely supply of appropriate employment, it sustains the true womanly pride of the respectable widow who is feeding her dependent orphan, by letting her feel that it is by God's blessing on her own virtuous effort, that her handful of meal in the almost empty barrel is not wasted, and the little oil in her cruise yet supplies her wants. Miracles of goodness—miracles that lift the desponding into hopes and efforts—miracles that speak moral life into those “dead in trespasses” against virtue—miracles that sustain the beautiful efforts of the destitute and the oppressed, are yet permitted; and it is an encouragement to continued devotion to the cause of christian philanthropy, that we are permitted to see the relation between the cause and the effect, and to recognize in the efforts at charity, an attempt to imitate the imitable qualities of Him

whose doctrines and whose life are illustrated by the acts that would save men from imprisonment, or alleviate those miseries to which vice has exposed the prisoner.

And we now repeat, what in another part of this branch of the Report is said, that with the question of employment merely touching the subject of political economy, the Society has no sympathy, and has enough to do in other legitimate matters, to lead it to avoid all really extraneous questions. But when the price of woman's labor, and the amount and variety of pursuits by which she may gain an honest living, connect themselves with considerations of vice and crime, and with the amount and character of prison discipline, then they are fairly before the Society, and appeal legitimately and strongly to its consideration. Employment seems to be the means of virtue as well as of victuals, and he who finds the means of profitable industry to the working woman, is at once the friend of the individual and the benefactor of the public.

The augmentation of the number of respectable demands for female labor, is the true specific for the disease about which there is so much just complaint, and against which there are so many honorable efforts at remedy, total or partial. It cannot be disputed that the occupation of the "sewing women" is overcrowded. The demand for labor is in no degree equal to the supply, and the revelations of the suffering of these most industrious persons have shown that with constant sedentary labor for twelve or fourteen hours a day, they cannot average three dollars a week, out of which they must pay room rent, (house rent is not to be thought of,) and the

little left must go to pay for food and clothing for themselves and children, and, sometimes, of a husband. This is shocking; and though there are times when more may be earned, yet it is feared that the average is not more than has been stated.

Now the domestic servant, "the cook," the chamber maid, the "child's nurse," or the "maid of all work," gets at least two dollars a week, and has her food and washing also. And "house help" is everywhere in demand, and the payment prompt. Could then a portion of the excess of unemployed or poorly paid sewing ability be directed into the channel of domestic labor, or—be it said with great respect—could the talent be left in the kitchen and chamber, and not lured away by promises of quite as much compensation and a good deal of evening time to use at pleasure, then the ranks of the sewing women would not be so much crowded, and the temptation to error be greatly lessened.

It will be said that a large portion of those who sew for a living cannot, from various circumstances, take situations in a family—they must depend upon their needle. That is true, very true—it is evident to all observers; and that necessity should be respected. And hence it is urged that those who, from any cause, find their living dependent upon their needle, should not be crowded out of the path to employment by those who can earn as good a living by basting a turkey as by basting a coat, and be as profitably and conveniently employed in making a bed as in making a shirt.

This rushing to the "*needle*" by those who can do as well at house-work, is too often the result of an under-

estimate of the great business of a woman, viz. : household employment. The employment is looked on with contempt, and thus the labor and the laborers are degraded. This is wrong, and care should be taken to avoid such an estimate. The young female who leaves household work and seeks employment as a "sewing woman," often makes shipwreck of herself by that very "*time*" which she may command in her new pursuit.

It is scarcely worth while to pursue the argument. But those who are familiar with the history of the women that crowd the cells of the County Prison, can tell painful tales of those who have sought to mend their condition by leaving the kitchen for the sewing room. It is dangerous to regard as degrading any appropriate, honest, useful calling of a virtuous woman.

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## CONCLUSION.

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The Society closes its annual statement with grateful acknowledgments for the protecting and, as they believe, the guiding care of a good Providence, by which they have been enabled to proceed in the pathway marked out for them by the founders of the Society and their successors. If less has been accomplished than was desirable by those who, knowing the institution and its

capability for good, look for rapid development and prompt returns, it is at least a source of felicitation that no rash measures have been favored by the Society, to disturb its peace and create doubt of its object and its usefulness. It is believed that the plans partly executed, of enlarging the sphere of direct action, and thus multiplying the usefulness of the Society, has had one great and good result, viz., the extension of a knowledge of the real object and means of the institution, and thus directing towards its efforts a corresponding feeling on the part of philanthropic individuals who, having little knowledge of the interior of prisons, have never been moved to consider their construction, or to lessen the miseries of their inmates. The kind feelings towards the Society, manifested by so many good citizens in various parts of the State, show that, in general, it is enough to make known channels of benefit, to have them occupied; and it is a subject of congratulation that the Agents of this Society generally found, in almost every county, some influential persons to whom could be confided the intention of the Association, with full hopes that at other periods of greater necessity and more favorable circumstances, plans would be initiated to secure effective co-operation with the active accredited members of the Society in other parts of the Commonwealth.

There are many counties which, this year, seem to have very little use for either jail or almshouse, but which, on the sudden development of the natural resources of the neighborhood, may soon become populous, and at the same time attract with the industrious

and economical, the elements of crime and poverty. Against the advent or the augmentation of these latter, it seems very difficult to guard ; but it will be well that there exist in all such places, in advance of the evil, the nucleus at least of associations, by which the object of criminal law shall have his punishment so meted out, that he shall not be hardened in crime ; and the appellant to the eternal justice of society for the support of the poor shall not be turned away unheeded, or made to drink too near its dregs the cup of eleemosynary bitterness.

Could penal and pauper institutions be formed under the advice of those who have given attention to the moral as well as the physical benefits of which they may be made productive, we should hear less of failures of plans and the impudence or the suffering of inmates. We hope that something in this direction has been done by our Society.

We refer to the statement of labors in the Penitentiary and County Prison for the evidences of our labors in that direction, showing what we would have other associations, auxiliary to our own, undertake and carry on in parts of the State where some of the necessities abound and little or no attention is given to them.

The visitors of the Society have found ample occupation for every hour which they could devote to the subject of moral instruction at the doors of the cells, or in the cell with the prisoner ; and in many cases, which they are not at liberty to mention, they have been greatly encouraged by the evidences of gratitude, and improvement of resolves, in the object of their labors ;



nor have they been without encouragement from the conduct of those who have left the prison after sharing their care and promising to profit by their advice.

The Society has no doubt of its duty : it can have no doubt that it is in the way of duty, when it sends its agents to the prison cells ; and those agents feel that they are in the way of duty, when they exhort, teach, encourage and aid the object of their mission. Their success, they know, depends on the blessing of God upon their hearty labors. Encouragement follows success ; and renewed exertions are easy, when some of their hopes are fulfilled. But the sense of duty forbids forbearance of exertion, while it mitigates the mortification which is consequent upon frequent failure. To press forward, then, in the work, is the resolution of those who are active agents of the Society, composing its Committee of Visitation, and of other labors, each one lending himself to the completion of the design of the institution, without supposing that his particular exertions are to be, separately, of large account ; rather, looking to the results of combination for the realization of plans, merging individual labor and its fruits in the common cause and common employment, like bees in their social toil ; while above all agents and all labors, is the Society, like the queen of the industrious insects, furnishing the work with laborers and directions.

By order of the Society,

JAMES J. BARCLAY, *President.*

ATTEST,

JOHN J. LYTLE,

EDWARD TOWNSEND,

*Secretaries.*

## LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

From 1787 to 1865, arranged by the years of their admission. The word "deceased" has been placed after the names of the deceased, so far as the Society was able to obtain information, and the word "resigned" after those who have resigned. In many instances it was impossible to ascertain whether the person named had died or resigned.

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| ELECTED.   | NAMES.                          | Deceased. |
|------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| May, 1787. | Benjamin Rush,                  |           |
| "          | John Swanwick,                  | "         |
| "          | John Morrison,                  | "         |
| "          | Thomas Harrison,                | "         |
| "          | Tench Coxe,                     | "         |
| "          | Zachariah Poulson,              | "         |
| "          | Thomas Lloyd,                   | "         |
| "          | Joseph Moore,                   | "         |
| "          | William Rogers, D. D.,          | "         |
| "          | John Kaighn,                    | "         |
| "          | James Whittall,                 | "         |
| "          | Richard Wells,                  | "         |
| "          | Thomas Wistar,                  | "         |
| "          | Jacob Shoemaker,                | "         |
| "          | Isaac Parrish,                  | "         |
| "          | William Zane,                   | "         |
| "          | Thomas Rogers,                  | "         |
| "          | Samuel P. Griffiths, M. D.,     | "         |
| "          | Francis Bailey,                 | "         |
| "          | Joseph James,                   | "         |
| "          | Charles Marshall,               | "         |
| "          | John Olden,                     | "         |
| "          | Caleb                           | "         |
| "          | Thomas Parkinson,               | "         |
| "          | John Morris,                    | "         |
| "          | Rt. Rev'd William White, D. D., | "         |
| "          | Dr. Henry Helmuth,              | "         |
| "          | John Jones, M. D.,              | "         |
| "          | William Shippen, M. D.,         | "         |

| ELECTED.      | NAMES.                   | Deceased. |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| May, 1787.    | Dr. Gerards Clarkson,    |           |
| "             | Jonathan Penrose,        | "         |
| "             | Laurence Seckle,         | "         |
| "             | John Baker,              | "         |
| "             | James Reynolds,          | "         |
| "             | George Duffield,         | "         |
| "             | Benjamin Wynkoop,        | "         |
| "             | George Krebs,            | "         |
| August, 1787. | Joseph Cowperthwaite,    | "         |
| "             | William Mackenzie,       | "         |
| "             | Robert Molyneux,         | "         |
| "             | Joseph Gilmore,          | "         |
| "             | Charles Weibery,         | "         |
| "             | William Rawle,           | "         |
| "             | Thomas Shield,           | "         |
| "             | Ashbell Green, D. D.,    | "         |
| "             | Richard Vaux,            | "         |
| "             | Jonathan Dewes,          | "         |
| "             | William Ashby,           | "         |
| "             | James Starr,             | "         |
| "             | Benjamin W. Morris,      | "         |
| "             | Richard Parker,          | "         |
| "             | Samuel Coates,           | "         |
| "             | John Evans,              | "         |
| "             | John Warton,             | "         |
| "             | William Coates,          | "         |
| "             | Thomas Humphreys,        | "         |
| "             | Daniel Potts,            | "         |
| "             | Henry Smith,             | "         |
| "             | Richard Gardiner,        | "         |
| "             | Edward George,           | "         |
| "             | Samuel Spalden,          | "         |
| "             | John Andrews, D. D.,     | "         |
| "             | James Pemberton,         | "         |
| "             | Henry Hill,              | "         |
| "             | Robert Blackwell, D. D., | "         |
| "             | John Meder,              | "         |
| "             | William Young,           | "         |
| "             | Benjamin Thaw,           | "         |
| "             | George Latimer,          | "         |
| "             | Elliston Perot,          | "         |
| "             | Thomas Clifford,         | "         |
| "             | Philip Benezet,          | "         |
| "             | John Starr,              | "         |
| "             | George Fox,              | "         |
| "             | Job Bacon,               | "         |

| ELECTED.      | NAMES.                       | Deceased. |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| August, 1787. | Thomas Morris,               |           |
| "             | Caleb Carmalt,               | "         |
| "             | John Field,                  | "         |
| "             | J. Hutchinson, M. D.,        | "         |
| "             | T. Foulke, M. D.,            | "         |
| "             | Daniel Tyson,                | "         |
| "             | Andrew Caison,               | "         |
| "             | William Hall,                | "         |
| "             | Thomas Watson, Jr.,          | "         |
| "             | William McIlhenny,           | "         |
| "             | Benjamin Franklin, L. L. D., | "         |
| "             | William Bingham,             | "         |
| "             | Anthony T. Wolbert,          | "         |
| "             | Casper Wistar, M. D.,        | "         |
| "             | Thomas Penrose,              | "         |
| "             | Samuel Miles,                | "         |
| "             | Josiah Hewes,                | "         |
| "             | John James,                  | "         |
| "             | John Perot,                  | "         |
| "             | Henry Drinker,               | "         |
| "             | Charles Moore, M. D.,        | "         |
| "             | Peter L. Lloyd,              | "         |
| "             | Jeremiah Warder,             | "         |
| "             | George Mead,                 | "         |
| "             | Joseph Paschall,             | "         |
| "             | Charles Marshall, Sr.,       | "         |
| "             | William Garrigues,           | "         |
| "             | Joseph Crookshanks,          | "         |
| "             | Benjamin Horne,              | "         |
| "             | Caleb Attmore,               | "         |
| "             | William Will,                | "         |
| "             | James Jobson,                | "         |
| "             | Ezekiel Merriam,             | "         |
| "             | W. T. Franklin,              | "         |
| "             | Thomas Dobson,               | "         |
| "             | S. Magaw, D. D.,             | "         |
| "             | Benjamin Duffield,           | "         |
| "             | M. M. O'Bryan,               | "         |
| "             | James Spraat, M. D.,         | "         |
| "             | Joseph Anthony, Sr.,         | "         |
| "             | Joseph Bringham,             | "         |
| "             | Dr. F. R. B. Rodgers,        | "         |
| "             | R. Wharton,                  | "         |
| "             | Robert Taggart,              | "         |
| "             | R. Stockton,                 | "         |
| "             | Jeremiah Parker,             | "         |

| ELECTED.        | NAMES.                    | Deceased. |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| August, 1787.   | Thomas Fitzsimmon,        | "         |
| "               | George Roberts,           | "         |
| "               | Mark Wilcox,              | "         |
| "               | Charles Marshall, Jr.,    | "         |
| "               | Jeremiah Fisher,          | "         |
| "               | Josiah Coates,            | "         |
| "               | Robert Roberts,           | "         |
| "               | Richard Adams,            | "         |
| "               | Thomas Palmer,            | "         |
| "               | John Claypoole,           | "         |
| November, 1787. | Robert Mims,              | "         |
| "               | James Abercrombie, D. D., | "         |
| "               | Samuel Pleasants,         | "         |
| "               | George Leib,              | "         |
| "               | William Lippincott,       | "         |
| "               | Daniel Oldden,            | "         |
| "               | Benjamin Fuller,          | "         |
| "               | Robert Tower,             | "         |
| "               | Joseph Sims,              | "         |
| "               | Ebenezer Large,           | "         |
| "               | Jedediah Snowden,         | "         |
| "               | John Connelly,            | "         |
| "               | William Brown,            | "         |
| "               | John McCree,              | "         |
| "               | Francis White,            | "         |
| "               | William Fisher,           | "         |
| "               | Nicholas Colin, D. D.,    | "         |
| "               | Joseph Clarkson,          | "         |
| "               | William Beaver,           | "         |
| "               | Richard Humphrey,         | "         |
| March, 1788.    | Robert Annan,             | "         |
| "               | Jacob Barkson,            | "         |
| "               | Elias Boys,               | "         |
| "               | Richard Tittermary,       | "         |
| "               | William Marshall,         | "         |
| "               | Ephraim Clark,            | "         |
| "               | John Gardner,             | "         |
| "               | James Moore,              | "         |
| "               | Samuel Davies,            | "         |
| "               | William Heysham,          | "         |
| "               | John Todd,                | "         |
| "               | James Cooper,             | "         |
| "               | John Anthony,             | "         |
| "               | Joseph Tatem,             | "         |
| "               | Abraham Mitchell,         | "         |
| "               | Elisha Gordon,            | "         |

| ELECTED.       | NAMES.                        | Deceased. |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| March, 1788.   | Nathaniel Falconer,           |           |
| "              | James Moyes,                  | "         |
| "              | John Dunlap,                  | "         |
| "              | David C. Claypoole,           | "         |
| "              | John Reily,                   | "         |
| "              | Michael Bonner,               | "         |
| "              | William Adcock,               | "         |
| "              | James Sterling,               | "         |
| July, 1788.    | Joseph Parker Norris,         | "         |
| "              | Thomas F. Moore,              | "         |
| "              | John Bleakley,                | "         |
| "              | Joseph Few,                   | "         |
| "              | William Lawrence,             | "         |
| "              | Robert Hopkins, Jr.,          | "         |
| "              | Daniel Drovis,                | "         |
| "              | Samuel M. Fox,                | "         |
| "              | John Keable,                  | "         |
| "              | Henry Physick,                | "         |
| "              | Robert Bethell,               | "         |
| October, 1788. | Mathew Carey,                 | "         |
| "              | Joseph G. T. Bend, D. D.,     | "         |
| "              | Bartholomew Wistar,           | "         |
| "              | William Lucas,                | "         |
| April, 1789.   | Thomas Afflick,               | "         |
| "              | Andrew Geyer,                 | "         |
| "              | Charles Crawford,             | "         |
| "              | Joseph M. Goffin,             | "         |
| "              | William Kidd,                 | "         |
| "              | Michael Leib, M. D.,          | "         |
| October, 1789. | William Forbes,               | "         |
| "              | Thomas Ballantyne,            | "         |
| "              | William Thornton, M. D.,      | "         |
| July, 1790.    | Samuel Davies,                | "         |
| "              | John Fisher,                  | "         |
| "              | William Lucas, (one in 1789), | "         |
| "              | Francis Finley,               | "         |
| "              | Israel Hallowell,             | "         |
| "              | Benjamin Say, M. D.,          | "         |
| "              | Peter de Barbier de Plessea,  | "         |
| January, 1791. | Solomon Rush,                 | Resigned  |
| "              | Richard Wistar,               | Deceased. |
| "              | Pattison Hartshorne,          | "         |
| "              | Robert Waln,                  | "         |
| April, 1800.   | Ellis Yarnall,                | "         |
| "              | A. Bingham,                   | "         |
| "              | James Gibson,                 | "         |

| ELECTED.        | NAMES.                  |           |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Debember, 1802. | Thomas Stewardson,      | Deceased. |
| "               | Jonathan Carmalt,       | "         |
| "               | Nicholas Waln, Jr.,     | "         |
| "               | Caleb Cresson, Jr.,     | "         |
| "               | Samuel Eldridge,        | "         |
| "               | Joseph Parrish,         | "         |
| "               | Abr. M. Garrigues,      | "         |
| "               | Israel W. Morris, 2d,   | Resigned. |
| "               | James Robinson,         | Deceased. |
| "               | Benjamin Marshall,      | "         |
| "               | William McIlhenny, Jr., | "         |
| "               | Benjamin Paxon, Jr.,    | "         |
| "               | Benjamin Ferris,        | "         |
| "               | John Bacon,             | "         |
| "               | Thomas Ryerson,         | "         |
| March, 1805.    | John Morton, Jr.,       | "         |
| "               | Thomas Bradford, Jr.,   | "         |
| "               | Joseph Keen,            | "         |
| "               | Henry Connelly,         | "         |
| January, 1807.  | William Bradford,       | "         |
| April, 1807.    | Francis Higgins,        | "         |
| January, 1808.  | Roberts Vaux,           | "         |
| April, 1809.    | Elihu Pickering,        | "         |
| "               | Edward Randolph, Jr.,   | "         |
| October, 1809.  | John Paul,              | "         |
| "               | Joseph M. Paul,         | "         |
| November, 1810. | Joshua Allen,           | "         |
| December, 1813. | Jonah Thompson,         | "         |
| "               | William Wayne, Jr.,     | "         |
| June, 1814.     | Thomas Shewell,         | "         |
| "               | Abram L. Pennock,       | Resigned. |
| "               | Samuel J. Robins,       | Deceased. |
| "               | Joseph Evans,           | "         |
| "               | Thomas Fassitt,         | "         |
| "               | James Fassitt,          | "         |
| "               | Job. B. Remington,      | "         |
| "               | Israel Maule,           | "         |
| "               | Robert M. Lewis,        | "         |
| "               | James B. Thompson,      | Resigned. |
| "               | William Morrison,       | Deceased. |
| "               | James P. Parke,         | "         |
| "               | Robert H. Smith,        | "         |
| "               | Reuben Haines,          | "         |
| "               | John C. Lowber,         | "         |
| "               | Thomas Kittera,         | "         |
| January, 1815.  | Thomas Shipley,         | "         |

| ELECTED.       | NAMES.                           |           |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| January, 1815. | Joseph Wayne,                    | Resigned. |
| "              | Thomas Wood,                     | Deceased. |
| "              | James Wood,                      | "         |
| "              | Benjamin H. Yarnall,             |           |
| "              | Bartholomew Wister,              | Deceased. |
| January, 1816. | George Williams,                 | "         |
| "              | Samuel R. Wood,                  | "         |
| "              | Samuel Lippincott,               | "         |
| "              | Joseph Reed,                     | "         |
| "              | Joseph Rotch,                    | "         |
| October, 1816. | Phillip Garrett,                 | "         |
| October, 1817. | Abraham Shoemaker,               | "         |
| April, 1819.   | Joseph Williams,                 | "         |
| "              | Jacob Thomas,                    | "         |
| "              | Ephraim Haines,                  | "         |
| "              | Joseph Pyle,                     | "         |
| "              | Ellis H. Yarnall,                | "         |
| April, 1820.   | James N. Barker,                 | "         |
| "              | James J. Barclay,                |           |
| "              | Jacob Randolph, M. D.,           | Deceased. |
| "              | Thomas Williams,                 | "         |
| January, 1821. | William Price, M. D., Jr.,       | Resigned. |
| "              | B. H. Coates, M. D.,             | "         |
| October, 1822. | William Duncan,                  | Deceased. |
| "              | Henry Troth,                     | "         |
| "              | William H. Keating,              | "         |
| January, 1823. | Rev. Samuel B. Wylie, D. D.,     | "         |
| "              | George Boyd, D. D.,              | "         |
| "              | Rt. Rev'd Jackson Kemper, D. D., | Resigned. |
| "              | Rev. William M. Englis, D. D.,   | "         |
| "              | David Gallagher,                 | Deceased. |
| "              | John M. Read,                    | Resigned. |
| "              | Joseph P. Engles,                | Deceased. |
| "              | William C. Beck,                 | "         |
| July, 1823.    | Charles A. Poulson.              |           |
| "              | Rev. E. S. Ely, D. D.,           | Deceased. |
| "              | Enoch Allen,                     | "         |
| "              | Edward Yarnall,                  | "         |
| October, 1823. | George Uhler, M. D.,             | "         |
| April, 1824.   | Rt. Rev'd Wm. H. Delancey, D. D. | "         |
| October, 1825. | Clements Stocker Miller,         | "         |
| "              | Jesper Harding,                  | Resigned. |
| "              | David Weatherly,                 | Deceased. |
| "              | Franklin Bache, M. D.,           | "         |
| "              | Edward Needles,                  | "         |
| "              | John Farr,                       | "         |



| ELECTED.         | NAMES.                          |           |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| July, 1827.      | Edward Bettle,                  | Deceased. |
| "                | George Rundle,                  | "         |
| "                | Charles Yarnall.                |           |
| "                | Thomas Kimber, 2d,              | Resigned. |
| "                | Rene La Roche, M. D.            |           |
| October, 1827.   | Rev. James Montgomery, D. D.,   | Deceased. |
| "                | Rev. George Weller,             | "         |
| "                | Rev. G. T. Bedell, D. D.        | "         |
| "                | George M. Stroud,               |           |
| November, 1827.  | Thomas C. James, M. D.,         | Deceased. |
| "                | Samuel G. Morton, M. D.,        | "         |
| "                | Judah Dobson,                   | "         |
| "                | William B. Reed,                | Resigned. |
| October, 1829.   | William H. Hood,                | "         |
| "                | Benjamin T. Neal,               | "         |
| "                | George Washington Smith,        | "         |
| "                | Gerard Ralston,                 | Deceased. |
| January, 1830.   | Rev. Edward Rutledge,           | "         |
| "                | Rev. Pierce Connelly,           | Resigned. |
| "                | Rev. Stephen H. Ting, D. D.,    | "         |
| "                | Charles S. Coxe,                | "         |
| "                | Joseph Mollwian,                | Deceased. |
| "                | Timothy Caldwell,               | "         |
| "                | Nathan Bunker,                  | "         |
| "                | Durden B. Carter,               | "         |
| "                | Richard Price,                  | Resigned. |
| "                | Thomas Earp,                    |           |
| "                | Andrew Allen,                   | Deceased. |
| "                | Thomas Mitchell,                | "         |
| "                | Peter Shade,                    | "         |
| "                | Joseph S. Kite,                 | "         |
| "                | Samuel Palmer,                  | "         |
| "                | George M. Wharton,              | Resigned. |
| April, 1831.     | Casper Wintar, M. D.,           |           |
| "                | Benjamin M. Mitchell,           | Deceased. |
| "                | Job R. Tyson,                   | "         |
| "                | Frederick A. Packard.           | Resigned. |
| "                | William Milnor, Jr.,            | Deceased. |
| "                | Rev. Charles R. Demmie, D. D.,  | "         |
| September, 1831. | Thomas S. Smith,                | Resigned. |
| April, 1832.     | Rev William Cowper Mead, D. D., | "         |
| "                | George Smith,                   | "         |
| "                | Rev. Peter Van Pelt, D. D.      |           |
| "                | Rev. Henry J. Morton, D. D.     |           |

| ELECTED          | NAMES.                               |           |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| April, 1812.     | Joseph R. Ingersoll.                 |           |
| "                | Marmaduke C. Cope.                   |           |
| "                | Thomas Boothe,                       | Deceased. |
| "                | Charles Evans.                       |           |
| "                | Jacob Green,                         | Deceased  |
| "                | Samuel J. Henderson,                 | "         |
| "                | Henry D. Gilpin,                     | "         |
| November, 1832.  | Rev. John Burt,                      | Resigned. |
| "                | Rev. Benjamin Hutchins,              | "         |
| "                | Robert Ralston,                      | Deceased. |
| "                | Thomas Astley,                       | "         |
| "                | Quintin Campbell,                    | "         |
| August, 1833.    | Benjamin Gerhard,                    | "         |
| "                | Thomas U. Walter,                    | Resigned. |
| September, 1833. | James Schott,                        | "         |
| "                | William W. Haley,                    | Deceased. |
| June, 1834.      | Rt. Rev. Francis P. Kendrick, D. D., | "         |
| "                | Rt. Rev. John Hughes, D. D.,         | "         |
| November, 1834.  | Samuel Rush,                         | "         |
| "                | Isaac Parrish,                       | "         |
| "                | Dillwyn Parrish.                     |           |
| "                | Rt. Rev. Sam. A. McCloskey, D. D.,   | Resigned. |
| May, 1835.       | Parsey Oakford,                      | Deceased. |
| "                | John Haviland,                       | "         |
| "                | Isaac Roach,                         | "         |
| "                | Rev. John Ludlow, D. D.,             | "         |
| "                | Rev. Henry W. Ducachet, D. D.        |           |
| February, 1836.  | Robert M. Patterson, M. D.,          | Resigned. |
| "                | General Robert Patterson,            | "         |
| "                | Joseph Patterson.                    |           |
| "                | Rev. Charles H. Alden,               | Deceased. |
| December, 1836.  | Robert Earp,                         | "         |
| "                | George Handy,                        | "         |
| "                | Lawrence Johnson,                    | "         |
| April, 1837.     | Caleb Cope,                          |           |
| "                | Herman Cope.                         |           |
| "                | Alfred Cope.                         |           |
| "                | Henry Cope.                          |           |
| "                | Washington Tyson,                    | Resigned. |
| "                | Isaac S. Lloyd,                      | Deceased. |
| "                | Timothy Abbott,                      | "         |
| September, 1837. | Rev. Samuel W. Crawford, D. D.,      | Resigned. |
| March, 1838.     | Paul Beck, Jr.,                      | Deceased. |
| "                | Henry Toland,                        | "         |
| "                | Mordecai L. Dawson.                  |           |
| "                | Charles Naylor,                      | Resigned. |

| ELLECTED.        | NAMES.                      |           |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| March, 1838.     | Alex. W. Mitchell, M. D.,   | Deceased. |
| November, 1839.  | Rev. Gotleib Adam Reichert, | Resigned. |
| "                | Elijah Dallett,             | Deceased. |
| "                | Stephen Colwell.            |           |
| "                | Robert Ewing,               | Resigned. |
| July, 1841.      | Robert Micheson,            | "         |
| October, 1841.   | John E. Elliot,             | "         |
| "                | John W. Claghorn.           |           |
| "                | George Thomson,             | Resigned. |
| "                | Ellis Yarnall.              |           |
| "                | Samuel J. Sharpless.        |           |
| "                | Paul W. Newhall,            | Deceased. |
| February, 1842.  | Frederick Fraley.           |           |
| "                | John C. Cresson.            |           |
| "                | Charles Kirkham,            | Deceased. |
| "                | Jeremiah Willits.           |           |
| "                | Edward C. Biddle,           | Resigned. |
| "                | Thomas T. Lea,              | "         |
| "                | Richard Richardson.         |           |
| "                | Richard Vaux,               | Resigned. |
| "                | Charles L. Sharpless.       |           |
| May, 1843.       | Isaiah Hacker.              |           |
| "                | Jeremiah Hacker.            |           |
| "                | Isaac Barton.               |           |
| "                | William Bradford,           | Resigned. |
| "                | Henry Bird,                 | "         |
| "                | Charles Ellis.              |           |
| June, 1843.      | Thomas Scattergood,         | Resigned. |
| August, 1843.    | Dr. William Shippen.        |           |
| September, 1844. | Henry Bond, M. D.,          | Resigned. |
| "                | Rev. William Prescod Hinds, | "         |
| November, 1844.  | William M. Meredith.        |           |
| "                | Henry J. Williams.          |           |
| "                | Thomas G. Hollingsworth.    | Deceased. |
| "                | Henry L. Patterson, M. D.,  | Resigned. |
| "                | Joseph Perot.               |           |
| "                | Henry M. Watts,             | Resigned. |
| "                | Theodore Cuyler,            | "         |
| "                | Francis Wharton,            | "         |
| "                | Edward T. Hopper,           | "         |
| January, 1845.   | Benjamin M. Hollingshead,   | "         |
| "                | John M. Whitall,            | "         |
| "                | Robert T. Walsh,            | "         |
| "                | Josiah Tatam,               | "         |
| "                | David S. Brown.             |           |
| "                | David Scull.                |           |

| ELECTED.         | NAMES.                      |           |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| February, 1845.  | Theodore Still,             | Resigned. |
| "                | William G. Allen,           | "         |
| "                | John H. Brown.              |           |
| June, 1845.      | Thomas S. Kirkbride, M. D., | Resigned. |
| "                | J. Fisher Leaning.          |           |
| "                | Uriah Hunt.                 |           |
| "                | James M. Campbell.          |           |
| "                | Joseph R. Chandler.         |           |
| "                | William P. Foulke.          |           |
| "                | Charles S. Wurts,           | Resigned. |
| "                | Robert A. Given, M. D.,     | "         |
| September, 1845. | Charles B. Trego,           | "         |
| December, 1845.  | William E. Morris,          | "         |
| January, 1846.   | Joseph E. McIlhenny,        | "         |
| "                | Joel Cadbury,               | "         |
| "                | William W. Keen,            | "         |
| "                | Horatio C. Wood.            |           |
| "                | William S. Hacker.          |           |
| "                | Anson V. Parsons,           | Resigned. |
| "                | Samuel L. Bailey,           | "         |
| "                | Daniel Maule,               | "         |
| "                | William Hodgson,            |           |
| "                | Rodman Wharton,             | Deceased. |
| "                | Lewis R. Ashurst,           | Resigned. |
| "                | Samuel Mann,                | "         |
| "                | Arthur G. Coffin,           | "         |
| "                | Saunders Lewis,             | "         |
| February, 1846.  | Henry C. Corbit,            | Deceased. |
| "                | Richard Williams,           | "         |
| "                | Robert V. Massey,           | "         |
| "                | James Ray, Jr.,             | "         |
| "                | John Schofield,             | Resigned. |
| "                | John McArthur,              | "         |
| "                | Thomas C. Garrett.          |           |
| "                | John Biddle.                |           |
| "                | Daniel Neall, Jr.           |           |
| "                | John D. Griscom, M. D.      |           |
| "                | William Dorsey.             |           |
| "                | John Bohlen.                |           |
| April, 1846.     | Fred. Eckard, M. D.,        | Resigned. |
| June, 1846.      | John Woolson,               | "         |
| October, 1846.   | Joseph C. Grubb.            |           |
| "                | Samuel C. Sheperd,          | Deceased. |
| "                | Benjamin J. Janney, M. D.,  | "         |
| "                | Benjamin Matthias,          | "         |

| ELECTED.        | NAMES.                |           |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| "               | J. D. Beecher,        | Resigned. |
| November, 1846. | Edward Townsend.      |           |
| "               | Oliver Brooks,        | Resigned. |
| "               | Henry R. Davis,       | "         |
| June, 1847.     | Isaac Elliott,        | Deceased. |
| "               | Joseph Howell, Sr.,   | "         |
| "               | Isaac Pugh,           | Resigned. |
| "               | Alexander Fullerton.  |           |
| "               | John Carter.          |           |
| "               | George Dilks,         | Deceased. |
| "               | Joseph H. Collins.    |           |
| "               | Eli K. Price.         |           |
| "               | Elisha Townsend,      | Deceased. |
| "               | Samuel H. Trotter.    |           |
| "               | Topliff Johnson,      | Resigned. |
| "               | John M. Wetherill.    |           |
| "               | Edward Tatam,         | Resigned. |
| "               | Samuel R. Simmons,    | Deceased. |
| "               | John Tucker,          | Resigned. |
| "               | John A. Brown.        |           |
| "               | Horace Binney, Jr.    |           |
| "               | Henry Chester,        | Resigned. |
| "               | James Campbell,       | "         |
| "               | J. Fallon.            |           |
| "               | John F. Gilpin.       |           |
| "               | Lawrence Lewis.       |           |
| "               | Robert M. Lewis.      |           |
| "               | Isaac P. Morris.      |           |
| "               | Samuel Norris.        |           |
| "               | Morris S. Wickersham. |           |
| "               | Chris. Fallon.        | Deceased. |
| "               | Samuel H. Perkins.    |           |
| "               | Fred. Brown,          | Deceased. |
| "               | James Bayard.         |           |
| "               | H. Cowperthwait,      | Resigned. |
| "               | William H. Drayton.   |           |
| "               | Geo. H. Bergin, M. D. |           |
| "               | M. D. Lewis.          | Deceased. |
| "               | Thomas Robins.        |           |
| "               | Israel Cope.          | Deceased. |
| "               | John Simmons.         |           |
| "               | William H. Brown.     | Resigned. |
| "               | Benjamin Kite,        | "         |
| "               | Arthur H. Willis,     | "         |
| "               | Morton McMichael,     | "         |
| "               | J. L. Erringer.       |           |

| ELECTED.        | NAMES.                |           |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| June, 1847.     | Jeremiah Brown.       |           |
| "               | William E. Bowen.     |           |
| "               | Isaac C. Jeanes,      | Resigned. |
| "               | Robert Ewing.         |           |
| "               | William S. Edwards.   |           |
| "               | Caleb H. Canby,       | Deceased. |
| "               | Joshua T. Jeanes.     |           |
| "               | Moses Brown.          |           |
| "               | Charles Foster,       | Resigned. |
| "               | Hiram T. Cooper,      | Deceased. |
| "               | George Vance Bacon,   | Resigned. |
| "               | E. G. Dutilh.         |           |
| "               | William B. Cooper.    |           |
| "               | Henry Cope.           |           |
| "               | Joseph D. Brown.      |           |
| "               | Samuel Bettie, Jr.    |           |
| "               | T. E. Beesley, M. D.  |           |
| "               | Henry Gibbons, M. D., | Resigned. |
| "               | William Elder,        | "         |
| "               | Passmore Williamson.  |           |
| "               | John Hockley          |           |
| "               | Lindley Harris,       | Resigned. |
| "               | Samuel C. Adams,      | "         |
| "               | William S. Walters,   | "         |
| "               | Jacob P. Jones.       |           |
| "               | Mahlon Williamson.    |           |
| October, 1848.  | Reue Guillou,         | Resigned. |
| December, 1848. | J. J. Devereaux,      | Deceased. |
| January, 1849.  | William J. Mullen.    |           |
| February, 1849. | Mark Balderston,      | Resigned. |
| "               | William Scattergood,  | Deceased. |
| "               | Thomas Leidy,         | Resigned. |
| "               | John M. Maus,         | "         |
| "               | Charles Schaffer,     | "         |
| "               | Marshall Atmore,      | "         |
| "               | John J. White.        |           |
| "               | Alexander Henry.      |           |
| "               | David S. Winebrenner, | Resigned. |
| "               | David Faust,          | "         |
| "               | Charles Moyer.        |           |
| "               | Henry C Erber,        | Resigned. |
| "               | Dr. Warrington,       | "         |
| "               | John H. Oberteiffer.  |           |
| "               | David Jayne,          | Resigned. |
| "               | Alexander F. Hazard,  | "         |
| "               | Samuel M. Day,        | "         |

| ELECTED.        | NAMES.                    |           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| February, 1849. | Thomas Latimer.           |           |
| "               | John C. Farr.             |           |
| May, 1849.      | Joseph S. Lovering.       |           |
| "               | John Lambert.             |           |
| "               | Charles M. Morris.        |           |
| "               | John B. Ellison,          | Deceased. |
| "               | John Horton,              | "         |
| "               | J. Ross Snowden,          | Resigned. |
| "               | William Warrington,       | "         |
| "               | Alexander Tower,          | Deceased. |
| "               | John L. Goddard,          | Resigned. |
| "               | Benjamin Dorr, D. D.,     | "         |
| "               | Richard R. Montgomery.    |           |
| "               | William L. Schaffer.      |           |
| "               | Jacob Stockman.           |           |
| "               | Rev. Edw. Neville, D. D., | Resigned. |
| November, 1850. | Thomas Wistar Brown.      |           |
| "               | Wistar Morris.            |           |
| "               | J. Wilson Moore, M. D.,   | Resigned. |
| "               | Constant Guillou.         |           |
| "               | Augustus Shipley,         | Resigned. |
| "               | J. Cook Longstreth.       |           |
| "               | John F. Frazier.          |           |
| January, 1851.  | James R. Smith,           | Resigned. |
| "               | John Thompson.            |           |
| "               | William Darrach, M. D.,   | Resigned. |
| "               | William D. Parrish,       | Deceased. |
| "               | Daniel Neall.             |           |
| "               | Joseph Scattergood.       |           |
| "               | Samuel H. Trotter.        |           |
| "               | Charles Gibbons.          |           |
| "               | John S. Halloway.         |           |
| "               | Samuel Wright.            |           |
| "               | Joshua L. Baily.          |           |
| "               | William J. Evans.         |           |
| October, 1851.  | John Lippincott.          |           |
| "               | Ellwood Shannon.          |           |
| "               | John J. Lytle.            |           |
| "               | William P. Sharpless.     |           |
| "               | Hugh Campbell.            |           |
| "               | John Clayton.             |           |
| January, 1852.  | Benjamin S. Janney.       |           |
| "               | Levi M. Bond,             | Resigned. |
| "               | Isaac G. Turner,          | "         |
| March, 1852.    | William U. Ditzler.       | "         |
| "               | Paul T. Jones,            |           |

| ELLECTED.       | NAMES.                    |           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| March, 1852.    | William Purves,           | Resigned. |
| "               | B. B. Comegys.            |           |
| "               | Joseph B. Townsend,       | Resigned. |
| "               | Alexander B. Cattell.     |           |
| "               | Joseph Parker,            | Deceased. |
| April, 1852.    | Benjamin Janney.          |           |
| "               | James Mott,               | Resigned. |
| May, 1852.      | Charles Evans.            |           |
| "               | D. B. Hinman.             |           |
| "               | Benjamin J. Crew,         | Resigned. |
| "               | Franklin Taylor.          |           |
| June, 1852.     | Heinrich Weiner,          | Resigned. |
| March, 1853.    | Paul Swift, M. D.,        | "         |
| "               | S. Morris Waln.           |           |
| "               | S. Stewart Depuy,         | Resigned. |
| "               | Thomas J. Husband.        |           |
| "               | Alfred B. Justice.        |           |
| "               | Mahlon Dickinson.         |           |
| "               | Samuel Caley,             | Resigned. |
| "               | Anthony M. Kimber,        | "         |
| "               | Thomas Kimber, Jr.        |           |
| "               | Uriah B. Kirk,            | Resigned. |
| "               | Mahlon Kirk,              | "         |
| "               | James E. Kaighn.          |           |
| "               | Benjamin H. Pitfield.     |           |
| "               | Abram Ritter,             | Resigned. |
| "               | Abram Ritter, Jr.         |           |
| December, 1853. | Richard L. Nicholson,     | Resigned. |
| "               | Ferdinand Dreer.          |           |
| "               | Sylvester Bonnafon.       |           |
| "               | Daniel Steinmetz.         |           |
| "               | William Dwight Bell.      |           |
| "               | Nathan Smedley.           |           |
| "               | Thomas H. Yardley, M. D., | Deceased. |
| "               | Coleman Nicholson,        | Resigned. |
| "               | Ignatius Donnelly,        | Resigned. |
| "               | Thomas Richards, Jr.,     | "         |
| "               | Thomas L. Baily,          | "         |
| "               | Morris A. Wurtz.          |           |
| "               | George Neff,              | Resigned. |
| "               | William C. Patterson.     |           |
| "               | Singleton A. Mercer.      |           |
| March, 1854.    | Jesse W. Taylor,          | Resigned. |
| "               | Edward Haviland,          | Resigned. |
| "               | Charles Parker,           | "         |
| "               | Abram Brown.              |           |



| ELECTED.        | NAMES.                 |           |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------|
| March, 1854.    | Samuel Emlen, Jr.      |           |
| "               | G. W. Fobes,           | Deceased. |
| May, 1854.      | Gerard F. Dale,        | Resigned. |
| "               | Theodore Trewendt.     |           |
| "               | Mark Genness,          | Deceased. |
| "               | Joseph Cooper,         | Resigned. |
| "               | Jeremiah C. Chance.    |           |
| "               | Israel H. Johnson.     |           |
| "               | Benjamin Coates.       |           |
| "               | Samuel R. Shiply,      | Resigned. |
| "               | George Canby,          | "         |
| "               | Richard Wood,          | "         |
| "               | William Bettle.        |           |
| "               | Gideon G. Westcott.    |           |
| November, 1854. | Nimrod Strickland,     | Resigned. |
| January, 1855.  | Charles J. Gummere.    |           |
| February, 1855. | William F. Spencer,    | Resigned. |
| November, 1855. | Samuel S. Richie,      | Resigned. |
| "               | Thomas L. Kane.        |           |
| "               | Benjamin Orne.         |           |
| "               | N. B. Brown.           |           |
| "               | William L. Kinsing.    |           |
| January, 1856.  | Isaac Winslow,         | Resigned. |
| "               | Benjamin H. Shoemaker. |           |
| "               | R. C. Davis,           | Resigned. |
| "               | T. Patton,             | "         |
| "               | D. J. Kennedy,         | "         |
| "               | Thomas G. Spear,       | "         |
| "               | John Stone,            | "         |
| "               | Edwin Hall,            | "         |
| "               | Charles E. Wilkins,    | "         |
| "               | William Morris,        | "         |
| "               | J. C. Fryer,           | "         |
| "               | Samuel E. Stokes.      |           |
| "               | C. E. Claghorn.        |           |
| "               | Alfred Slade,          | Resigned. |
| "               | J. B. Okie.            |           |
| "               | T. Caldwell.           |           |
| "               | Charles H. Welling,    | Resigned. |
| "               | William C. Richardson. |           |
| "               | Howard Edwards,        | Resigned. |
| "               | Henry Lewis,           |           |
| "               | John F. Brinton,       | Resigned. |
| "               | John D. Taylor.        |           |
| "               | Levi J. Rutter.        |           |
| "               | William N. Needles.    |           |

| ELECTED.        | NAMES.                  |           |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| January, 1856.  | Henry Palmer,           | Resigned. |
| "               | Benjamin B. Thomas,     | "         |
| "               | S. Hancock,             | "         |
| "               | George Chandler,        | Deceased. |
| "               | Samuel Richards,        | Resigned. |
| "               | Thomas J. Black,        | "         |
| "               | Eden Haydock,           | "         |
| "               | Thomas J. White.        |           |
| "               | Robert Pollock,         | Resigned. |
| "               | William H. J. Reed,     | "         |
| "               | B. T. Tredick.          |           |
| "               | Ellwood Davis,          | Resigned. |
| "               | J. E. Reed,             | "         |
| "               | Joseph Ripka, 2d,       | Deceased. |
| "               | A. R. McHenry,          | Resigned. |
| "               | H. W. Ridgway,          | "         |
| "               | William McRea,          | "         |
| "               | G. M. Elkinton,         | "         |
| "               | John H. Brinton, M. D., | "         |
| "               | John Kelley,            | "         |
| "               | Henry Homer,            | "         |
| "               | Henry Lewis Rutter.     |           |
| "               | William Newell.         |           |
| "               | J. H. Newhall.          |           |
| "               | Warner M. Rasin.        |           |
| July, 1856.     | Edward Lewis.           |           |
| October, 1856.  | Oliver Evans,           | Resigned. |
| "               | Henry H. Kelley,        | "         |
| "               | Edward Lyons,           | "         |
| "               | John McAllister, Jr.    |           |
| "               | D. Shepherd Holman.     |           |
| "               | Jonathan Traveller,     | Resigned. |
| "               | William B. Foster,      | Deceased. |
| November, 1856. | John A. McAllister.     |           |
| "               | Edw. H. Bonsall.        |           |
| "               | Henry Perkins.          |           |
| December, 1856. | George Elkinton, Jr.    |           |
| January, 1857.  | J. Edgar Thompson.      |           |
| "               | Thomas Mellor.          |           |
| "               | Jacob T. Bunting,       | Deceased. |
| "               | William S. Boyd.        |           |
| "               | John Thomas.            |           |
| April, 1857.    | William H. Pearson,     | Resigned. |
| November, 1857. | Alfred H. Love          |           |
| "               | Julius Theinhardt.      |           |
| February, 1858. | John Hunneker.          |           |

| <b>ELECTED.</b> | <b>NAMES.</b>             |           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| February, 1858. | Josiah Brant.             |           |
| "               | Stephen Remak,            | Resigned. |
| "               | William Y. McAllister.    |           |
| "               | Lewis Watson,             | Deceased. |
| July, 1858.     | John L. Capon,            | Resigned. |
| "               | Charles Hamilton,         | Resigned. |
| December, 1858. | George Taber.             |           |
| "               | William M. Godwin.        |           |
| "               | William Ford.             |           |
| "               | N. B. Kneas.              |           |
| "               | William L. Rehn.          |           |
| "               | Rev. W. H. Furness.       |           |
| "               | Thomas H. Speakman.       |           |
| "               | James Peters.             |           |
| "               | Jay Cooke.                |           |
| "               | William R. MacAdam.       |           |
| "               | Joseph Elkinton.          |           |
| "               | Joshua Cowpland.          |           |
| "               | F. Ratchford Starr.       |           |
| "               | Charles L. Bute.          |           |
| "               | Edw. A. Smith.            |           |
| "               | Rev. A. A. Willits.       |           |
| "               | James Starr,              | Deceased. |
| "               | Richard W. Bacon.         |           |
| "               | Josiah Bacon,             |           |
| "               | M. Saunders.              |           |
| "               | William Kinsey.           |           |
| "               | Edward D. Stokes.         |           |
| "               | William Ingram.           |           |
| "               | J. Tunis Way,             | Resigned. |
| "               | William D. Jones.         |           |
| "               | Isaac T. Jones.           |           |
| "               | Ellwood Johnson.          |           |
| "               | William Lynch.            |           |
| "               | William P. Way,           | Resigned. |
| "               | Joel J. Bailey.           |           |
| "               | Benjamin V. Marsh.        |           |
| "               | Benjamin M. Hollingshead. | Resigned. |
| "               | William Weightman.        |           |
| "               | Justice P. Jones.         |           |
| "               | Thomas H. Powers.         |           |
| "               | William Welsh.            |           |
| "               | Samuel Welsh.             |           |
| "               | John Welsh.               |           |
| "               | Andrew C. Barclay.        |           |
| "               | Louis Iungerich.          |           |

| ELECTED.        | NAMES.                  |           |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| December, 1858. | Raymond Troubat, M. D., | Resigned. |
| "               | John M. Sharpless,      | "         |
| "               | William P. Wilstach.    |           |
| "               | George H. Stuart.       |           |
| "               | John P. Wetherill.      |           |
| "               | Alexander Derbyshire.   |           |
| "               | John Derbyshire.        |           |
| "               | Thomas M. Smith.        |           |
| "               | George W. Taylor,       | Resigned. |
| "               | Thomas P. Cope,         |           |
| "               | John J. Thompson.       |           |
| "               | Samuel Sloan.           |           |
| "               | Joseph Parrish, M. D.   |           |
| "               | Samuel C. Morton.       |           |
| "               | Joseph S. Lewis,        | Resigned. |
| "               | Benneville Brown,       | Deceased. |
| "               | George M. Troutman.     |           |
| "               | Joseph Jones.           |           |
| "               | Samuel Houston,         | Resigned. |
| "               | Morris Hacker.          |           |
| "               | Charles P. Perot.       |           |
| "               | Stephen H. Brook.       |           |
| "               | Edw. Lowber, M. D.,     | Resigned. |
| "               | Charles W. Poultney.    |           |
| "               | Joseph P. Smith.        |           |
| "               | Reve L. Knight.         |           |
| "               | Peter Williamson.       |           |
| "               | Aaron A. Hurley.        |           |
| "               | Clement S. Rutter.      |           |
| "               | Joseph Klapp, M. D.     |           |
| "               | William V. Anderson.    |           |
| "               | James Kitchen, M. D.    |           |
| "               | Dr. Richard Gardiner.   |           |
| "               | William W. Moore.       | Deceased. |
| "               | Edward E. Eyre,         | Resigned. |
| "               | Washington J. Landell,  | "         |
| "               | Anthony P. Morris.      |           |
| "               | H. J. Child, M. D.      |           |
| "               | Edward Bains.           |           |
| "               | Edward C. Knight.       |           |
| "               | Isaac K. Wright.        |           |
| "               | John Ketcham.           |           |
| "               | Joshua Lippincott.      |           |
| "               | Samuel Parry.           |           |
| "               | Ellis S. Archer,        | Resigned. |
| "               | Redwood F. Warner.      |           |

| ELECTED.        | NAMES.                  |           |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| December, 1858. | William Miskey,         | Resigned. |
| "               | William Merrill.        |           |
| "               | Jonathan Brock.         |           |
| "               | Lawrence Peterson.      |           |
| "               | Samuel Smyth.           |           |
| "               | J. S. Kneedler.         |           |
| "               | Alfred Nesmith.         |           |
| "               | William C. Ludwig.      |           |
| "               | John Hazeltine.         |           |
| "               | G. Fredrick Knorr.      |           |
| "               | E. Lincoln.             |           |
| "               | James S. Mason,         | Resigned. |
| "               | M. Hastings.            |           |
| "               | William H. Smith,       | Resigned. |
| "               | Miss Rosa Seadman.      |           |
| "               | Stephen G. Fotherill.   |           |
| "               | Richard M. Marshall.    |           |
| "               | William Evans, Jr.      |           |
| "               | William H. French.      |           |
| "               | Algernon S. Roberts.    |           |
| "               | Alexander Ardley.       |           |
| "               | William W. Longstreth.  |           |
| "               | Robert Donnell.         | Deceased. |
| "               | Thomas Ridgway.         |           |
| "               | Thomas A. Budd.         |           |
| "               | John Rice,              | Resigned. |
| "               | Joseph Thurston,        | Deceased. |
| "               | Joseph S. Lovering, Jr. |           |
| "               | Charles A. Besson.      |           |
| "               | Coates Walton.          |           |
| "               | James M. Conard.        |           |
| "               | Samuel Simes.           |           |
| "               | Benjamin Homer,         | Resigned. |
| "               | James E. Caldwell.      |           |
| "               | Francis Carpenter.      |           |
| "               | George G. Presbury,     | Resigned. |
| "               | John O. Mead.           |           |
| "               | E. W. Bailey.           |           |
| "               | T. H. McAllister.       |           |
| "               | Henry M. Laing.         |           |
| "               | William Eyre.           |           |
| "               | George H. Ashton.       |           |
| "               | John M. Ford.           |           |
| "               | Charles J. Field.       |           |
| "               | Samuel Bispham.         |           |

| ELECTED.         | NAMES.                 |           |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| December, 1858.  | Henry C. Fox.          |           |
| "                | S. Broadbent.          |           |
| "                | T. Morris Perot.       |           |
| "                | James N. Stone.        |           |
| "                | Henry M. Stone.        |           |
| "                | Joseph W. Ryers.       |           |
| January, 1859.   | William L. J. Kiderlen |           |
| "                | George P. Way.         | Resigned. |
| "                | Lloyd Chamberlain.     |           |
| "                | Elliston P. Morris.    |           |
| "                | Evan T. Ellis,         | Resigned. |
| "                | Franklin A. Comly.     |           |
| "                | Harry Conrad.          |           |
| "                | Henry Brooks.          |           |
| "                | Joseph Potts.          |           |
| "                | William S. Stewart.    |           |
| April, 1859.     | S. Fisher Corlies.     |           |
| "                | Robert S. Johnston.    |           |
| May, 1859.       | William C. Rudman.     |           |
| "                | Jacob T. Williams.     |           |
| "                | Henry Haines.          |           |
| August, 1859.    | Joseph Keen.           |           |
| "                | Albert H. Franciscus.  |           |
| "                | Robert E. Evans.       |           |
| November, 1859.  | George Erety.          |           |
| "                | John Kessler, Jr.      |           |
| December, 1859.  | William Chapman.       |           |
| "                | Charles C. Lathrop.    |           |
| "                | George Bringhurst.     |           |
| January, 1860.   | Charles Palmer.        |           |
| February, 1860.  | Thomas Potter.         |           |
| March, 1860.     | William H. Dennis.     |           |
| "                | Robert C. Clark.       |           |
| "                | Charles C. Cresson.    |           |
| "                | Joseph H. Thornley.    |           |
| May, 1860.       | B. B. Esler.           |           |
| August, 1860.    | William Dorsey.        |           |
| September, 1860. | William Macniver.      |           |
| November, 1860.  | William Quane.         |           |
| "                | Thomas A. Robinson.    |           |
| December, 1860.  | Henry S. Farr.         |           |
| "                | William H. Richardson. |           |
| February, 1861.  | Morris Patterson.      |           |
| "                | Daniel L. Collier.     |           |
| "                | J. Wistar Evans.       |           |
| "                | Abram Martin.          |           |

| ELECTED.        | NAMES.                      |           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| February, 1861. | Alexander Whilldin.         |           |
| "               | H. N. Thissel.              |           |
| "               | Charles Harbert.            |           |
| "               | F. Atmore.                  |           |
| April, 1861.    | M. J. Mitcheson.            |           |
| "               | R. Maurice Luther.          |           |
| June, 1861.     | John Adolph Beans,          | Resigned. |
| "               | B. B. Morrell.              |           |
| August, 1861.   | Philip P. Randolph.         |           |
| "               | B. W. Beisley.              |           |
| "               | William Nicholson.          |           |
| "               | William P. Jones.           |           |
| October, 1861.  | Charles W. Funk.            |           |
| November, 1861. | A. G. Roland.               |           |
| December, 1861. | Coulson Hieskel,            | Resigned. |
| "               | George H. Richards.         |           |
| "               | John M. Dickinson.          |           |
| January, 1862.  | Rev. L. C. Neuman.          |           |
| February, 1862. | William Warner Caldwell.    |           |
| "               | T. Ellwood Zell,            | Resigned. |
| March, 1862.    | Henry Perkins.              |           |
| "               | William P. Jenks.           |           |
| "               | J. M. Corse, M. D.          |           |
| "               | E. M. Griffin, M. D.        |           |
| "               | Ellwood Wilson, M. D.       |           |
| "               | Joseph B. Townsend.         | Resigned. |
| April, 1862.    | James A. Kirkpatrick.       |           |
| "               | Charles A. Kingsbury, M. D. |           |
| "               | Edwin P. Stevens,           | Resigned. |
| May, 1862.      | William Hunt, M. D.         |           |
| "               | William Hacker.             |           |
| July, 1862.     | Josiah W. Leeds.            |           |
| October, 1862.  | George M. Elkinton.         |           |
| "               | Charles W. Woodward.        |           |
| "               | George Milliken.            |           |
| December, 1862. | John A. Quinn.              |           |
| "               | Nathan Smith.               |           |
| January, 1863.  | Rev. John Ruth.             |           |
| "               | John E. Carter.             |           |
| March, 1863.    | John H. Watt.               |           |
| May, 1863.      | Charles Gibbons.            |           |
| "               | Edmund A. Crenshaw.         |           |
| "               | John O. Mead.               |           |
| "               | Rev. J. H. Beckwith.        |           |
| June, 1863.     | James Stuart.               |           |
| "               | Edward S. Campbell.         |           |

## ELECTED.

## NAMES.

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| June, 1863.     | Henry B. Ashmead.     |
| "               | Robert Henderson.     |
| July, 1863.     | John Wetherill, Jr.   |
| "               | George Pennock.       |
| August, 1863.   | Morris S. Wickersham. |
| "               | Rev John Kline.       |
| "               | Thomas P. Potts.      |
| January, 1864.  | Ezekiel Hunn.         |
| February, 1864. | Joshua Eyre,          |
| April, 1864.    | Joseph M. Truman, Jr. |
| "               | J. Lukens, M. D.      |
| May, 1864.      | William Neal.         |
| "               | James B. Chandler.    |
| June, 1864.     | James J. Duncan.      |
| July, 1864.     | Luther Martin.        |
| "               | William H. Keichlin.  |



# CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

## OF

## PRISON SOCIETY.

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| ELECTED.       | NAMES.                                            | RESIDENCE.       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| October, 1817. | William Dillwyn, deceased,                        | London.          |
| "              | William Allen, "                                  | "                |
| "              | Sir Samuel Romilly, deceased,                     | "                |
| "              | Henry Gregoire, of Blois, deceased, formerly Arch | Bishop of Paris. |
| "              | John Stanford, deceased,                          | New York.        |
| "              | Thomas Eddy, "                                    | "                |
| "              | James Trimble, "                                  | Harrisburg, Pa.  |
| "              | Richard Sullivan, "                               | Boston.          |
| "              | William Tudor, "                                  | "                |
| April, 1819.   | John Young,                                       | Greensburg, Pa.  |
| January, 1821. | Stephen Lushington, L. L. D.,                     | London.          |
| "              | Sir Thomas F. Buxton, deceased,                   | "                |
| "              | Peter Bedford, "                                  | "                |
| "              | Abraham R. Barday, "                              | "                |
| "              | Thomas Turley Foster, "                           | "                |
| "              | William Crawford, "                               | "                |
| "              | Samuel Hoare, Jr., "                              | "                |
| "              | Henry Newman, "                                   | "                |
| "              | William F. Reynolds,                              | "                |
| "              | Richard Taylor,                                   | "                |
| "              | Samuel Woods, deceased,                           | "                |
| "              | Basil Montague, "                                 | "                |
| "              | James Cropper, "                                  | Liverpool.       |
| "              | William Roscoe, "                                 | "                |
| "              | Joseph Reynolds,                                  | Bristol.         |
| "              | James J. Wright,                                  | "                |
| "              | David Dockard,                                    | Manchester.      |
| "              | Frederick Smith,                                  | Croyden.         |
| "              | Joseph John Gurney, deceased,                     | Norwich.         |
| "              | Thomas Clarkson, " Playford Hall, Ipswich.        |                  |
| "              | Compte de Lasteyre, "                             | Paris.           |

| ELECTED.         | NAMES.                                | RESIDENCE.              |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| January, 1821.   | L. R. Villermé, M. D.,                | Paris.                  |
| "                | Walter Venning,                       | St. Petersburg.         |
| "                | Prince Gallitzen,                     | "                       |
| January, 1820.   | Rev. Joseph Spencer, D. D., deceased, | Maryland.               |
| July, 1827.      | Levi Ives,                            | Lancaster, Pa.          |
| October, 1823.   | Charles Lucas,                        | Paris.                  |
| "                | Hon. John N. Cunningham,              | Wilksbarre, Pa.         |
| "                | Garrick Mallery,                      | "                       |
| "                | Samuel Evans, deceased,               | Pa.                     |
| October, 1827.   | James Bowdoin, deceased,              | Boston.                 |
| January, 1830.   | C. P. Sumner,                         | "                       |
| April, 1831.     | Francis B. Fogg,                      | Nashville.              |
| September, 1831. | J. C. Julius, M. D.,                  | Berlin.                 |
| "                | J. G. V. de Melcou,                   | Paris.                  |
| "                | Hon. Thomas Burnside, deceased,       | Bellefonte, Pa.         |
| "                | " Alexander Thompson,                 | Chambersburg, "         |
| "                | " Charles W. Hanson,                  | Baltimore.              |
| "                | E. L. Finley,                         | "                       |
| April, 1832.     | John Riddle,                          | Erie, Pa.               |
| "                | William Patterson,                    | Washington, Pa.         |
| "                | William Waugh,                        | "                       |
| "                | Thomas Rodgers, deceased,             | Centre County, Pa.      |
| "                | Charles B. Penrose,                   | Carlisle, "             |
| "                | Solomon Krepps,                       | Fayette County, "       |
| "                | Valentine Bond, deceased,             | Centre " "              |
| "                | John R. Shannon,                      | Beaver " "              |
| "                | Samuel McKeane,                       | " " "                   |
| "                | Richard M. Crane,                     | " " "                   |
| "                | Samuel Workman,                       | " " "                   |
| "                | James Lesley,                         | Harrisburg, "           |
| November, 1832.  | Don Jose Santiago Rodriques.          |                         |
| August, 1833.    | William H. Dillingham, deceased,      | Westchester, Pa.        |
| "                | David Townsend,                       | " "                     |
| February, 1836.  | Dr. Francis Leiber,                   | Columbia College, N. Y. |
| April, 1837.     | Isaac Leet, deceased,                 | Washington, Pa.         |
| March, 1838.     | Charles P. Krauth,                    | Gettysburg, Pa.         |
| October, 1841.   | Dr. George Varrentrapp,               | Frankford on-the-Maine. |
| February, 1842.  | Professor Tellkamli,                  |                         |
| November, 1844.  | Miss D. L. Dix,                       |                         |
| January, 1846.   | Charles S. Stratton, deceased.        |                         |
| October, 1846.   | James Adshead,                        | England.                |
| "                | Rev. John Hall, D. D.,                | Trenton, N. J.          |
| "                | Thomas Carpenter,                     | "                       |
| November, 1846.  | William R. Strong,                    | Reading, Pa.            |
| June, 1847.      | Dubre Knight,                         | Wilmington, Del.        |
| November, 1854.  | Senor Soldan,                         | Peru.                   |

| SELECTED.        | NAMES.                       | RESIDENCE.            |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| July, 1855.      | John S. Richards,            | Reading, Pa.          |
| "                | Hon. Townsend Haines,        | West Chester, "       |
| "                | " Andrew G. Curtin,          | Harrisburg, "         |
| "                | " Charles W. Heggins, dec'd, | Pottsville, "         |
| November, 1855.  | Charles Lott,                | Lottsville, "         |
| December, 1858.  | Morris C. Jones,             | Bethlehem, "          |
| February, 1860.  | Henry Echroid,               | Muncsey, "            |
| "                | George Willits,              | Catawissa, "          |
| "                | Joseph Paxton,               | " "                   |
| "                | Morris C. Jones,             | Bethlehem, "          |
| "                | Dr. David,                   | Copenhagen.           |
| May, 1860.       | William A. Thomas,           | Bellefonte, Pa.       |
| December, 1861.  | Alexander A. McClure,        | Chambersburg, "       |
| March, 1862.     | J. Willits, Jr.,             | Haddonfield, N. J.    |
| January, 1863.   | Robert Smeal,                | Glasgow.              |
| May, 1863.       | Rev. E. C. Wines,            | New York.             |
| July, 1863.      | Hon. J. Pringle Jones,       | Reading, Pa.          |
| September, 1863. | Warren J. Woodward,          | " "                   |
| "                | Hon. Henry G. Long,          | Lancaster Co., Pa.    |
| "                | " A. L. Hays,                | " "                   |
| "                | " John J. Peirson,           | Harrisburg, "         |
| "                | John L. Atlee, M. D.,        | Lancaster, "          |
| October, 1863.   | William J. Allinson,         | Burlington, N. J.     |
| May, 1864.       | Timothy Ives,                | Cowdersport.          |
| June, 1864.      | Rev. L. Y. Graham,           | Somerset, Pa.         |
| "                | " R. S. Lee,                 | Uniontown, "          |
| August, 1864.    | Prof. A. B. Miller,          | Waynesburg, "         |
| September, 1864. | William Frew,                | Pittsburg, "          |
| "                | Rev. James Montgomery,       | Clarion Co., "        |
| "                | " J. R. Findlay,             | Mercer " "            |
| "                | " S. H. Holliday,            | Brookville, "         |
| "                | " S. M. Eaton,               | Franklin, "           |
| "                | " M. Gibson,                 | Northumberland Co., " |
| "                | John P. Crozier,             | Chester, "            |
| October, 1864.   | Rev. Royal Young,            | Butler Co, "          |
| "                | J. B. McEnnally,             | Clearfield " "        |
| "                | Abraham R Perkins,           | Delaware " "          |
| November, 1864.  | William Davis, Esq ,         | Stroudsburg, "        |
| "                | Dr. Sydenham Walton,         | " "                   |
| "                | Hon. William Brodhead,       | Milford, "            |
| "                | Alfred B. Sherman,           | " "                   |
| "                | John Journey,                | Honesdale, "          |
| "                | Zenos H. Russell,            | " "                   |
| "                | Francis B. Penniman,         | " "                   |
| "                | Henry Drinker,               | Montrose, "           |
| "                | William H. Jessup,           | " "                   |

| ELECTED.        | NAMES.                  | RESIDENCE.       |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| November, 1864. | R. G. White,            | Willibough, Pa.  |
| "               | John F. Donalson,       | " "              |
| "               | Hon. Samuel P. Johnson, | Warren Co., "    |
| "               | " Rasselas Brown,       | " "              |
| "               | " John W. Howe,         | Meadeville, "    |
| "               | " David Derrickson,     | " "              |
| "               | John H. Walker,         | Erie, "          |
| "               | S. S. Spencer,          | " "              |
| "               | Rev. Sylvester Bent,    | Beaver, "        |
| "               | James S. Rutton,        | " "              |
| "               | Hon. Samuel D. Clark,   | New Castle, Del. |
| "               | Thomas Pomeroy,         | " "              |
| "               | John Douglass, D. D.,   | Pittsburg, Pa.   |
| "               | Dr. Robert Wray,        | " "              |
| "               | Hon. Henry D. Foster,   | Greensburg, "    |
| "               | " Joseph Kugns,         | " "              |
| "               | John Sutton,            | Indiana, "       |
| "               | William M. Stewart,     | " "              |
| "               | Cyrus L. Perdling,      | Johnstown, "     |
| "               | John Fenton, Esq.,      | " "              |
| "               | Hon. Samuel Calvin,     | Hollidaysburg, " |
| "               | Col. R. A. McMurtrie,   | " "              |
| "               | Hon. Samuel Lynn,       | Bellefonte, "    |
| "               | Dr. J. D. Wingate,      | " "              |
| "               | A. W. Benedict,         | Huntingdon, "    |
| "               | J. Sewell Stewart,      | " "              |
| "               | David W. Woods,         | Lewistown, "     |
| "               | Cyrus W. Elder,         | " "              |
| "               | John S. Patterson,      | Mifflintown, "   |
| "               | Edmund S. Roty,         | " "              |
| "               | Hon. John A. Baker,     | Bloomfield, "    |
| "               | Rev. Mr. Riddle,        | " "              |
| "               | Peter M. Osterhout,     | Tunk-Hamock, "   |
| "               | Robert Little,          | " "              |
| "               | Hon. U. Mercur,         | Tonawanda, "     |
| "               | Benjamin S. Russel,     | " "              |
| "               | John L. Mann,           | Coudersport, "   |
| "               | A. G. Olmstead,         | " "              |
| "               | S. Miles Green,         | Huntingdon, "    |
| "               | John Curwen, M. D.,     | Harrisburg, "    |



# APPENDIX.

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## SOME NOTICE OF THE COUNTY PRISONS

AND

ALMSHOUSES IN PENNSYLVANIA,

RESPECTFULLY ADDRESSED TO

HIS EXCELLENCY A. G. CURTIN,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

*By the Philadelphia Society for alleviating the Miseries of  
Public Prisons.*

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PHILADELPHIA:

J. B. CHANDLER, PR., 306 & 308 CHESTNUT STREET, (GIRARD BUILDING.)

1864.



TO HIS EXCELLENCY, A. G. CURTIN,  
*Governor of Pennsylvania.*

SIR :

The members of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons have, for nearly seventy years, labored with earnestness to procure for the execution of the penal laws of the State, all the characteristics of mercy of which the discipline of a prison is capable ; and they have reason to believe that they have not only entitled themselves to the credit of some success at home, but they have been so fortunate as to excite abroad a greater consideration of the subject of Prison Discipline as a means of amending the life and improving the character of those who have incurred public censure by their crimes or their vices. And it is a proof of the benefits of such labors in one direction, that in the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland the experience of the governors, directors and managers of public prisons leads almost entirely to the adoption of the plan of separate confinement of the prisoners, as far as the construction of their prisons will permit.

Separate confinement, however, is not all that is desirable in the system of prison management : order, propriety, cleanliness, and moral and religious instruction are demanded, and these to be an essential, a necessary part, of the administration of every prison.

In the city of Philadelphia there are two prisons—one the Eastern Penitentiary, famed for its system of separate confinement, an example in that respect, and perhaps it may be added, in all the other points which we have mentioned above as essential to a sound prison policy, in which punishment for crime and the improvement of the criminal are to go hand in hand.

The other is the Philadelphia County Prison. This, it is believed, is a well administered institution, considering the variety of causes for which imprisonment is assigned. With these two prisons the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons have been most connected. They have, without interfering with the pre-



scribed duties of the chief officers and of the Board of Inspectors, sought by frequent visitations to improve the character and condition of the prisoners; and they have not been unsuccessful; many have, under the kind instructions of the Society, gone forth into the world and put into execution the good resolves which they had been prevailed on to make in their cells, and thus the ends of the Society and the good of the community have been directly promoted.

In order to alleviate the miseries of prisons, however, the Society has found that something more is needed than a direct and friendly appeal to the prisoner. That is a good work in itself, and its goodness has been manifested by the direct permanent benefit that it has wrought in the prisoner. But the great work of alleviating the miseries of prisons must also be promoted by improving the plans of prison structure, by placing the affairs of each prison in competent hands, and under rules and regulations that will insure the improvement, as well as the imprisonment of the offender, and make his prison-house the place of moral and religious instruction.

It has been known for a long time that the prisons in some of the counties of this State did not, in any considerable degree, in either structure or administration, conform to requirements such as have been stated above. The usual propriety of conduct in the rural districts precluded the idea of large or crowded jails. And the rarity of crime, and especially its direct and general bearing upon the interests and convenience of a considerable portion of the inhabitants, each of whom seemed to share in the injury done to his neighbor, cut off the offender from the sympathies of the people around him, and he came to be regarded as one whose hand was against every man, and consequently every man's hand was lifted against him. And so the jail was built without much regard to the comfort or improvement of the prisoner,—built to suit either the economical tastes of the county, or the architectural want of taste of the inhabitants of the shire town; and often comfort, proprieties, and even safety were sacrificed to the former in order to propitiate the latter—with as much show for the towns-folks as was compatible with the smallest amount of cost to the rural inhabitants.

Of course, houses thus constructed must possess very few means to meet the intentions of the laws with regard to criminals; and the economy in construction, which is thus made to accommodate two

small passions at the expense of a great principle, will be scarcely less manifested in the maintenance of the building and the support of its inmates ; but rather the false taste that leads to the sacrifice of the great object of a prison, by the cheapness and inappropriateness of the building, will certainly be exercised in the administration of its affairs, physically, fiscally, morally and religiously.

Frequent attempts have been made, and one or two by the Legislature of the Commonwealth, to procure annual statements of the affairs of each prison in the State ; but these efforts, even though seconded by the obedience of some of the prison officers, have not procured the kind of information that is necessary to form a just opinion of the situation of all the prisons, and to suggest a remedy for any of the evils which are consequent upon the existing system of general prison discipline, or which may result from the neglect of the Superintendent.

The Society, in the discharge of the duties which it has assumed, felt that any bare statement of the routine of business, and the ordinary statistics of the prisons, would be quite inadequate to the object in view. They desired the results of personal inspection. They wanted the reports of men who were not concerned in the direction of any one prison, but who knew what are the requisites of prison administration and prison discipline. It was therefore resolved that an agency of three persons, active members of the Society, should be formed, and these members should visit the prisons of the State. The agency was to be so divided that the labors of one should not interfere with those of the others.

As a guide to their inquiries, each of the agents was furnished with a series of questions, as follows :

*Interrogatories to be propounded to the Inspectors, Sheriffs, and others interested with the management of the Prisons of the State of Pennsylvania.*

When was the prison of your County erected ?

Is the building adapted to the congregate or separate system ?

Under what officers is the prison conducted, and how are they compensated ?

How many prisoners will it accommodate ?

Are the sexes completely separated ?

Are the prisoners allowed to associate at night ?

How are the convicts employed ?

Is any employment given to untried prisoners ?

Are the prisoners who can read furnished with books ?

Are those who are ignorant taught to read and write ?

Are they taught trades ?

Are they afforded religious instruction ?

What is the dietary of the prison, breakfast, dinner and supper ?

Are any of the officers of the prison interested in any contract for supplying the prisoners with food, raiment, or any other necessaries ?

What clothing and bedding are furnished to the prisoners ?

What are the hygienic arrangements of this prison ?

What is the number of prisoners now in this jail. State their sex, color, age, &c., and crimes for which they have been convicted, and the average term of imprisonment in this prison ?

What has been the average number for 1860, '61, '62, and '63 ?

What is the number of insane persons now in jail. State the sex, color, age, and whether they are recent cases ?

Are any special arrangements made for treating insane prisoners ?

What has been the average number of insane in this prison for 1860, '61, '62, and '63, and what the whole annual expense of supporting this prison for the years above mentioned ?

What are the punishments inflicted on the prisoners to prevent their escaping, or to preserve the discipline of the prison ?

It is to be regretted that the statements of the special agents of the Society cannot be published in extenso, as no effort at an abstract which would suit the small space at the disposal of the Society, can give a correct idea of the state of these institutions, each differing from the other in construction or in some parts of administration.

In some places the prison is old and dilapidated, and of course unsafe. Where that is the case, the convict must be kept in chains to secure the fulfilment of his sentence, and sometimes save a little extra trouble to the keeper ; while instances of the kind were found

and noted, it is due to the cause of truth and the credit of our fellow citizens to say that they are not general, and seem to be the remains of a bad custom transmitted down and to be abolished with the erection of a new prison.

Food is abundant in Pennsylvania, but wherever it is needed it costs something. When therefore the keeper of a prison is allowed a certain sum a day for finding each prisoner, it follows as a matter of course that there is, at least, a temptation to reduce the character, the quantity and quality of the food, so as to make the merchandise thereof profitable to the keepers of the prison. Such a trade seems abhorrent to the best feelings of humanity, and while the keeper ought to pray to be kept out of the temptation to do such a wrong to those who receive from him "day by day their daily bread," these latter must often ask to be delivered from the evil which the cupidity of others imposes upon them. It is right to say that in many instances the provisions supplied to the prisoners by this species of commissariat are wholesome and abundant.

In some cases where the keeper is to find food and bedding, he is not called upon to furnish wearing apparel, and to one arrested and sentenced in the summer, the changes of weather in autumn and winter produce much suffering, and great complaints were made on that ground. A case is mentioned in which a judge refused to try a prisoner till he was provided with such clothes at least as decency made necessary.

The location and construction of the prisons are in many cases wholly exceptionable. Situated often on the chief thoroughfares of the town, with windows that admit of constant communication between persons in the streets and those in the prison; and as those outside who would thus hold conversation with those within, could scarcely be edifying, it follows that the imprisonment often by that means becomes a means of injury to both the prisoner and his outside friend.

Another great evil in the construction of prisons, is the neglect to provide for a complete separation of the sexes. In some cases there was found to be no attempt to separate them during the day; and, in one or two cases, the means of communication were so available, that without the aid of public functionaries or the courts, additions had been supplied to the number of inmates, and thus the very crime for which the prisoner may have been suffering was repeated in the house

of penalty. Of this several instances are noted by one of the agents. In one case certainly not under the knowledge of the keeper.

On the subject our Agent says:—"In regard to the association of male and female prisoners there is no rule, and the practice varies. Whether they shall be separated or together, which is, I presume, the least troublesome arrangement, depends on the will of the Sheriff and his sense of propriety. It is a usually recognized principle that the sexes shall not associate at night. Still even this principle, as appears from the case already cited, can be, and is, infringed occasionally. But however strictly it may be observed, the grossest immorality may exist *without* the sexes being permitted to spend the night together. The time at which the prisoners are separated for the night varies; sometimes it is not till after dark in the winter time, and in one prison not till 9 P. M., winter and summer. As the business of the Sheriff frequently calls him away from home, it is not likely that any strict regulation can be preserved as to the time of separating the prisoners. And even with the utmost regularity upon this point, it is doubtful when male and female prisoners spend the day together, whether much evil is prevented by their separation for the night only.

Another important matter is noticeable in the construction of the prisons, to which decency and common humanity should at once apply a correction, viz. the construction of cells without the convenience of water closets. It is not necessary to say more on this subject, than to remark that more than one prison in the State were found destitute of what the most common sense of propriety would suggest.

In other prisons a common yard to the building held the only water closet of the whole establishment.

In others, the female prisoners were compelled to pass through the common room of the males to gain access to the more common water closets, serving for them, for the male prisoners, and the family of the keeper. It is painful to state that the evil here noticed is very general

It may be proper here to state that some of the prisons recently erected, while they have all the appearance of massive masonry and assume the fronts of mediæval castles, that would defy the assault of a considerable force from violence, are so constructed internally as to invite attempts to escape. In such case the grand object of penal buildings is sacrificed to show, as, in the country at least, few ever desire to force their way *into* prison.

Nor is the consideration of the subject of prison architecture foreign from the dictates of mercy and humanity by which the Society is influenced. The convict who is always encouraged with the hope that he can violate the law of the State by breaking out of prison, is not likely to give much attention to the lessons of religion and morality that teach obedience to the laws. An unsafe prison is a temptation to crime.

On this subject one of the Agents reports with regard to a prison in this State:—"The prison has four apartments for the Sheriff and family. The external appearance is neat, being of brick, ornamentally designed. The cells are two stories high, built with blocks of sand stone twenty inches square, which give the appearance of great strength. The cells back to each other, having strong iron doors and locks, and one arched *with a four inch arch*, through which a woman could easily work her way with a tenpenny nail. Several of the cells have yet open the man holes which the prisoners broke, and through which they escaped, and these afford the principal ventilation."

In some of the country prisons the insecurity of the house is so great that much cruelty is practised to prevent the escape of a prisoner charged with felony. And it may be remarked that rules or laws to exempt the Sheriff from liabilities consequent upon the escape of prisoners, show the admitted insecurity of the jail, while it shows also the criminal parsimony of the county that takes no proper method to prevent the offender from visiting other locations to practise the felonies which were detected but not punished by the proper authorities at home.

The inquiries of the agents naturally included the moral provisions of the prisoners. What has been done to supply the deficiency in the school education of the offender, and what attempted with regard to the moral and religious condition of those who are undergoing the penalty of the law? It is painful to say that in many of the prisons nothing has been attempted in that way. The ignorant remain in ignorance of books, and their developed faculties are sharpened to wrong by their constant intercourse with their more advanced fellow prisoners. In some of the prisons there are a few books—not enough to serve the purpose for which they were provided, but ample to show that there is a duty felt somewhere of doing something for the prisoner. In other prisons it is reported that some self-devoting man

gives all of his Sundays to the instruction, literary and moral, of the inmates ; and this shows, if not how much good can be done, at least what kind of good ought to be attempted. What is the duty of the philanthropic in the way of labor, and—let it be added—what is the duty of the Commonwealth in the way of encouragement? It is not too much to say that the moral and religious instruction of prisoners throughout the Commonwealth has been shamefully neglected in most of the county prisons, and the few exceptions which are noted, resulting generally from individual efforts and maintained by individual sacrifice, are only sufficiently numerous to denote the possibility of producing the good required, and illustrate the great neglect on the part of the public.

Social confinement of the guilty without moral instruction, without proper books, without steady employment, must be productive of more evils to society at large than would flow from the entire neglect of justice toward the criminal. Prisons badly constructed and badly conducted must, in the nature of things, be schools of vice, weaning the young offender from the taste and use of the little good that is left in him, and making the bad worse.

It is the opinion of the agents, that many of the evils of the county prisons spring from the fact that the sheriff of the county is, *ex officio*, the keeper of the prison. It is not believed that men are selected for that important office who are not humane and just. But men do not seek the office of sheriff for the sake of being the jailor ; and if there is any business for the sheriff to do beyond the wall of the prison, so much of the time of that functionary is taken from the discharge of a duty which he assumes, but which has no affinity with the other more desirable parts of his official labors. Besides, the office of sheriff is not a permanency, while that of a prison-keeper ought to be. The duties of his place as sheriff must, if discharged, prevent the personal supervision of the prison and the prisoners which a jailor ought to give. And he must be often tempted to enlarge his small income by such efforts at economy as must tell hard upon the prisoners, often hard upon the county. Instances of the kind are given, but it is enough to state that the system, or rather want of system liable to such abuses.

In presenting a short abstract of the reports of the visiting agent, details have been omitted, and care taken not to connect any location

with errors, which, though conspicuous *there*, are nevertheless the results of a want of a system, regulated by humanity and enforced by legislative requirements.

It is believed that what is called the "SEPARATE SYSTEM" for prisons is that alone by which permanent improvement in the incarcerated can be expected. Such is the opinion in Great Britain and Ireland, as set forth in the reports of investigating committees, extracts from which are only withheld from the statement that the size may not hinder a perusal. But the "Separate System" is emphatically the Pennsylvania System. To extend the benefit of this system then to the other branches of penal discipline, seems to be a logical deduction from the success that has thus far attended it—success in the penitentiaries and the few county prisons in which it has been adopted. Such measure would insure improvement earlier in the career of crime and vice, and thousands who now pass from the well-occupied rooms of a county prison to the separate cell of the penitentiary, might be spared the latter grade of punishment, and be made to commence the work of reformation before they had become so far advanced in crime as to preclude strong hope of their amendment.

But admitting that arrangements were made for separate confinement of prisoners in all or most of the prisons of the State, still errors in the administration might creep in, and abuses grow up into mortifying enormities.

Formal stated reports from the superintendents of the several prisons might be expected to give such information as would secure, if not reformation, at least correction; but experience shows that such reports do not produce the end desired. The simple statistics of the number admitted, the number dead, and the number discharged, would, of course, be correct; but that would call for no interference, and would excite no remarks; what is needed is, a statement of the administration of the affairs. This might be ordered by the Legislature. But it is to be feared, or rather it is to be expected, that such a report would in a few years become a matter of form, and have little claim upon the attention of the Legislature. And it may be added, that the superintendent, who from bad motives, or from neglect, or want of abilities, suffered abuses in his prison, could scarcely be expected to make such a report of his trust as would expose his official conduct to investigation, and himself perhaps to censure and dismissal. Nor is



that all. The superintendent, looking only to his own charge, would not obtain knowledge of the operation of the system in other counties, and he would, without intention, and perhaps without deserving censure, allow his administration to proceed in the old routine, and his report to be the stereotyped statements of former years, which, conforming to the requirements of the law, would be obnoxious to no censure for its omission of statements of misdoings, and to no criticism for neglect.

It is believed that the prisons of the State require more supervision than they now have ; that they ought to be placed under a regular system, which shall include steadiness of discipline, mercy in its administration, and a strict accountability, with such a general supervisory care as shall enable the public to know that all is done in the way of justice which the law requires, all in the way of mercy which religion suggests, and all in the way of improvement which is due to humanity and the high philanthropic character of the State. And this requires one or two general agents, who have a proper sense of what is due to the prison, as well from justice as from mercy,—who, having a knowledge of the true principle of constructing and conducting prisons, shall, by frequent visitations, assist the superintendent to carry out, to its fullest extent, the intention of the penal laws of the Commonwealth, compare the workings of the system in one county with those in another, and leave to all the benefit of the improvement which each may adopt, to see that every part of the intention of the just laws of our State are carried out, and all the capabilities of a prison for the moral improvement of its involuntary inmates be put into use ; and then a strictly impartial report of all the ordinary occurrences be made to the Legislature annually, with such statements of the success of attempts at meliorating the condition of the prisons as may correct the errors of some and encourage the exertions of others—*what has been done and how it has been.*

This supervision can, of course, be rendered effectual only by those who have their hearts in the work ; who feel, not only for the cause of justice, but for the good even of the guilty ; who, while they admit of no morbid sensibility for the situation of the convict, will allow no indifference to his capabilities as a man to prevent them from using all efforts to restore to society an amended, if not a useful member ; who will have a pride in endeavors to make, even the prisons in the

State, mental hospitals, in which those who have no hope of departure into this world, may be in some measure prepared for a departure into the world that is to come ; and from which the discharged shall go forth, with determination and qualification to become useful elements in the social system.

It is hoped that the statements made above will show the necessity of some further legislation to promote the usefulness of prisons beyond the negative condition of preventing crime by withholding the culprit from society—furthering that usefulness by giving to those houses the positive character of schools of sound morals.

At this point it is deemed desirable to say something of what seems a *desideratum* in the reformatory plans of the State ; an institution which shall occupy in point of usefulness a position between the prison and the almshouse ; a House of Correction, of Industry or Reform ; in which the sturdy offenders against the proprieties of society shall be made to compensate by labor for the cost of their board and clothing, and learn to live and to work without the use of stimulants that produce intoxication, or those uses of tobacco which stimulate an appetite for strong drinks.

The subject will naturally command the attention of the Legislature and the people, when the construction and management of public prisons shall have been properly systematized.

Intimately connected with the subject of alleviating the miseries of public prisons, is that of improving the administration of the almshouses of the State ; or rather, of making most subservient to the cause of humanity the administration of funds raised for the support of the poor. The guilty must be incarcerated as a punishment for crime committed, and to secure the safety of the good for the time, and as a means of moral improvement of the offender. It is the right of society thus to deal with those who violate its wholesome laws

The poor must be provided with the means of comfortable living, with the decencies of life, and that which is necessary to declining health and accumulated years or deranged intellect. It is the duty of society thus to act,—a duty imposed by the very terms of the social compact,—a duty also imposed by the taxes to which those very poor were in better days liable, in order to sustain the miserable of their own community. The right of the virtuous poor to the comforts and proprieties of life, when they have ceased to be able to procure them

for themselves, has a correlative duty in society, and it is therefore a perfect right, and may and ought to be enforced. To see how that right is enjoyed, and how that duty is performed, in various counties, was the intention of the Society,—the movement being one of public good and humanity, and connecting itself almost naturally with that of the administration of prisons. The comfort of the virtuous poor, it is repeated, may be demanded as a *social right*; the improvement of guilty prisoners is one of humanity and *social benefit*.

Individual inquiries had led to the belief that all that might be done for the poor, with the amount actually expended, had not been secured, and that information of the administration of almshouses, and the care of the poor by other means, would lead to a knowledge, and thence to a correction, of evils; and therefore the same agents that went forth to make inquiries as to the mode in which the criminal and the vicious are punished, were charged to seek information as to the manner in which the poor are cared for; and the following questions were propounded, to elicit the information desired:

*Questions to be propounded to the Managers, Overseers, Stewards and others charged with the management of the Poor Houses of the Commonwealth.*

When were the buildings erected?

How many persons will they accommodate?

How is the Institution managed; state particularly, and how the officers are chosen?

What salaries are paid?

Has the Steward or Superintendent any pecuniary interest in the labor of the inmates or in furnishing any supplies for the Establishment.

What is the Dietary of the inmates, breakfast, dinner and supper. State what clothing and bedding they are allowed; what trades or employments are carried on in the Institution?

What number of Insane inmates are now in this Institution; what number of these are recent cases, and what number are chronic cases?

Are there any special arrangements adopted for the treatment of the Insane?

What was the average number in this Institution in 1860, 1861, 1862 and 1863? State their sex, color, age.

What are the prominent causes of Pauperism in your county?

What are the Hygienic arrangements of this Establishment?

What has been the cost of this Establishment for 1860, 1861, 1862 and 1863?

Those who have looked into the condition of the poor dependent upon public charity as it is dispensed in our own State, will have observed that the pauper is regarded with little favor; as it is perhaps true in his case as in the situation of those whose disappointments in life have only turned them from the superfluities to the bare comforts of existence, that they owe their condition to their own mistakes.

“Look into those you call unfortunate,  
And, closer viewed, you’ll find they are unwise.”

But no lack of sagacity, no want of prudence, no indulgence of immoral appetites, can deprive the poor man or poor woman of the right to a decent maintenance; and when a township or a county seeks to avoid a small expense by making the expenditure smaller, in cheapening the support of the poor, it violates an article in the great compact of society.

They who are, and who are by a law of social life always to be, with us, must be provided for; and by contributing to the support of the existing poor, not only is the present tax-payer ministering a fund to which probably the pauper has contributed, but he is perhaps adding to the fund and fixing its administration for his own benefit or that of his children. The sudden changes which occur in this country are felt as much by the rich as by the poor; when one part of the wheel is uppermost, another portion of its periphery must be down. It is, nevertheless, a wheel, and its integrity is dependent upon each portion. What is needed in townships and counties where there are poor, and where almshouses do not exist, are almshouses. And what is needed in almshouses, is such a construction and arrangement as will admit of an administration that will respect the remaining delicate sentiments of its inmates,—that will permit the old husband and wife, who are unable to contend longer with adverse circumstances, to spend together the remainder of their time in a union which perhaps may be the last ray of sunshine in a stormy day,—that will secure

to those who may not remain thus united, all the comforts which a propriety of administration may supply, and all the enjoyment which a diseased frame and protracted years may permit.

It is known that the almshouses are not all thus administered ; but it is the hope of the Society that improvement in conducting their affairs may multiply the comforts of which such institutions are capable. But erroneous as may be the general plans of these places, faulty as may be their construction, and deficient as some of them may be in the means to secure the objects for which they are established, it is believed that at worst the system is better than that which puts up the support of the poor to public bidding, at the same time that the horse and kine are struck off, with this difference in favor of the latter, that the bidding for brutes is upward, while that for human beings is downward. "The worst almshouse," says one of the agents, "is better than the contract of individuals, to maintain cheap and work hard the pauper of the township."

A great evil is found in the manner of selecting the administrators of the funds provided for the poor. In many counties the whole matter is thrown into the general concern of party considerations, and men who cannot get the distinction and benefit of some office of profit as a compensation for party service, are rewarded for their services by a nomination and election as overseer of the poor, with the duties of which position they have no knowledge, and with the character and wants of those in whose behalf they ought to act they have no sympathies. What good such men could do to others in such places it is difficult to imagine. What injury to others they produce is patent to all who look to their official labors.

While it is desirable that the evils in the plans of our public institutions, and the malpractice in their administration be made known, in order to secure the correction of what is now wrong, and to prevent a perpetuation of similar evils in other places, the Society is happy to say that the agents have not failed to report some of the persons and almshouses which they have visited as creditable to the counties which reared and have sustained them—because they promoted the very objects for which they were instituted. For example, one of the agents says :

"The poor house was erected in —, and is the best sample of a poor house I have seen in any county. It has separate stairs at each

end, with enclosed yards. It will accommodate two hundred persons, with comfort. The present number is fifty-two. Three directors are elected, one each year, who serves three years. They are allowed sixty dollars per annum each. They employ a steward at a salary of four hundred dollars a year, and a living off the farm. The inmates are supplied with good wholesome food without limit, and a suit of clothes extra to those who are able to attend a place of worship; and beds and appliance sufficient. They have no trades excepting those for the benefit of the institution, and these are increasing. There are thirteen insane, all chronic cases. Apartments are erected for them at a distance from the sick. The average number of paupers in three years was between sixty and seventy. Of these three were colored. Cause of pauperism intemperance mainly. A physician is employed to visit weekly. The whole cost about six thousand dollars a year."

Where such an almshouse is found, thus administered, it is easy to see that men have been selected as guardians of the poor who had a proper pride in the character of the county and a proper sense of what was due to the wants and circumstances of the poor. No refuse of party nomination have been used for the office; no man is placed there to earn a more profitable position by starving the poor for the benefit of the tax-payer. It is proper to add that one or two other almshouses are spoken of with similar approval. These cases, for brevity's sake, are not particularized. The object is to procure the correction of prevailing evils by calling attention to their existence. In such matters that which is well planned will be generally well executed.

Inquiries into the condition of the prisons and almshouses of the State have forced upon the attention of the agents and the consideration of the Society, the treatment of the insane. The State of Pennsylvania stands almost foremost in her provisions for the mentally diseased; and yet it cannot be denied that some of that class of persons suffer as much in this State as they would on the "border territories," where as yet no provision for the insane has ever been thought of.

The reports from which this short extract is made, give instances of most shameful neglect or maltreatment of the poor insane. And to such a degree has this cruelty extended, that in more than one instance it is noticed that "strong pens are made, in which the insane are kept. They strip themselves, and are left in cold and nakedness. The informant, a high public functionary, said he had not seen it in his

county, but in several others he has seen them chained in pens, naked and filthy, and they were visited by passers-by, and boatmen from the canal, as objects of curiosity."

Pennsylvania has now a State Insane Hospital, at Harrisburg, and another at Pittsburg, which are occupied by the class of patients for which it was intended; but while there are many persons in the State who suffer such cruelty, more provisions should be made. The State is not true to its great mission, if it neglects the cause of that class of sufferers.

Of course it is not pretended that the class to which allusion has just been made are found in a majority of the counties. But it may with truth be said that, with the exception of two or three counties, the provisions for the insane are miserably deficient, and in some counties the total neglect, or the improper kind of provisions, amounts to a disgraceful cruelty.

Nor should it be lost sight of, that where there is no regular system enforced by law, all the evils that are now found in a few places may find their way to most counties. The system, or rather the want of system, is so liable to produce misery to the sufferer, that it demands attention.

In the City of Philadelphia there is a splendid hospital for the Insane, a part of the great institution of the Pennsylvania Hospital, and there is a large Asylum under the direction of Friends directed to the same humane uses; and in the Philadelphia Almshouse the care and treatment of the insane is made a specialty. The State Institutions at Harrisburg and at Pittsburg are admirably managed, but they are not sufficiently inclusive. The incurable, the poor, the criminal, need provision in their behalf. They require humane attention. It is cruel to see these sufferers exposed as we have already stated To know that they are sent from county to county to find a residence, and when that residence is found, perhaps their unwelcome presence excites no sympathy and suggests no gentleness of treatment.

It is believed that curable or incurable, these sufferers have a right to a home in which they could be prescribed for by the skilful professors, and treated with gentleness and proper consideration by persons selected for their general humanity and their willingness to assist in directing an institution or house for the insane. Nor should it be lost sight of, that the location of the house for the poor insane should be

at such a distance from the residence of the sane pauper, that the latter when sick should not be disturbed by the cries of the former, nor the former irritated by the presence of the latter.

There should be no insane kept in Almshouses.

If there should be no insane in the Almshouse, then by a stronger argument there should be no insane in a prison. On this subject it is not now a time to speak with the earnestness which the subject deserves., nor is there space here to show by argument, strengthened by strong instances, what a wrong to all is the mixture of the sane and insane in prison

The Society for alleviating the miseries of prisons, in obtaining the information upon which they are now acting, were so fortunate as to find in various parts of the Commonwealth citizens who had seen some of the evils in prison discipline and almshouse administration, but who had not been moved to any union of action towards improvement. A large number of these gentlemen have cheerfully connected themselves with the good works of the Society by becoming corresponding members, where it is not yet practical to form Auxiliary Societies. By the aid of these co-laborers the Society will be enabled to obtain much information upon the state of the convicted guilty, the imprisoned vicious, and the dependent poor; and it will also through their corresponding members and Auxiliary Societies be able to put into practice its concerted plans, to correct some of the existing evils, and to enlarge the means of general good. But the whole needs some Legislative support—something by which the efforts of the Society may be made successful—some Legislative action by which, what is asked for by the active philanthropist, may be conceded as a duty by the administration of the penal and pauper institutions. It is believed that a State Agent, acting with the Society and for the State and the poor and criminal, would present annually such an amount of information that would never otherwise go beyond the walls of the prison or almshouse, as would satisfy the Legislature of the State that the small expenditure would be ten times repaid by the amount of moral improvement in the criminal, and the increase of physical comfort provided for the poor.

The salary of the Agent should be enough to meet his expenses in traveling and at home, but it should not be so large as to provoke the



cupidity of those who regard the compensation rather than the benefit of appointment.

A man with his heart in the work would by his labors add abundantly to the efficiency of our prisons and the benefit of our almshouses. He would by his personal communication with the inspectors and keepers of the prison lend them a hearty co-operation in all the best modes of administration, while each would profit by the experience of the other, and the whole system of penal and pauper houses would become perfect in their adaptation to the particular wants of the inmates, and the representatives of the people in the Legislature of the State would feel that they were acting upon the highest requisition of republicans when they were providing for a humane administration of the almshouses and prisons of the Commonwealth.

The agency of a single individual, especially connected with the humane efforts of a Society that has no views of self-aggrandizement or political success, would be consistent with the quasi independence of the counties in which its prisons are maintained, and the work, while it insured the melioration of existing affairs, would partake of that character of sound and practical humanity by which Pennsylvania is distinguished.

In the belief that the subject referred to in the preceding pages commends itself in all its bearings to those who make and those who execute the laws of the Commonwealth, the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, respectfully invite thereto the attention of your Excellency, with the hope that through your recommendation the Legislature of the State may give it appropriate consideration.

By order of the Society.

JAMES J. BARCLAY, *President.*

JOHN J. LYTLE,  
EDWARD TOWNSEND, } *Secretaries.*

*Philadelphia, Dec. 3, 1864.*

#### ARTICLE IV.

The Treasurer shall keep the moneys and securities, and pay all orders of the Society or of the Acting Committee, signed by the presiding officer and Secretary; and shall present a statement of the condition of the finances of the Society at each stated meeting thereof.

All bequests, donations, and life-subscriptions shall be safely invested; only the income thereof to be applied to the current expenses of the Society.

#### ARTICLE V.

The Acting Committee shall consist of the officers of the Society, *ex officio*, and fifty other members. They shall visit the prison at least twice a month, inquire into the circumstances of the prisoners, and report such abuses as they shall discover, to the proper officers appointed to remedy them. They shall examine the influence of confinement on the morals of the prisoners. They shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings, which shall be submitted at every stated meeting of the Society; and shall be authorized to fill vacancies occurring in their own body, whether arising from death, or removal from the city, or from inability or neglect to visit the prisons in accordance with their regulations. They shall also have the sole power of electing new members.

#### ARTICLE VI.

Candidates for membership may be proposed at any meeting of the Society or of the Acting Committee; but no election shall take place within ten days after such nomination. Each member shall pay an annual contribution of two dollars; but the payment of twenty dollars at any one time shall constitute a life membership.

#### ARTICLE VII.

Honorary members may be elected at such times as the Society may deem expedient.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

The Society shall hold stated meetings on the *fourth* fifth day (Thursday) in the months called January, April, July, and October, of whom seven shall constitute a quorum.

#### ARTICLE IX.

No alterations of the Constitution shall be made, unless the same shall have been proposed at a stated meeting of the Society, held not less than a month previous to the adoption of such alterations. All questions shall be decided, where there is a division, by a majority of votes; in those where the Society is equally divided, the presiding officer shall have the casting vote.

# OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

## 1865.

PRESIDENT,—JAMES J. BARCLAY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS, { WILLIAM SHIPPEN, M. D.  
JOSEPH R. CHANDLER.

TREASURER,—EDWARD H BONSALL.

SECRETARIES, { JOHN J. LYTLE,  
EDWARD TOWNSEND.

COUNSELLORS, { HENRY J. WILLIAMS,  
CHARLES GIBBONS.

### *Acting Committee.*

Charles Ellis,  
William S Perot,  
Thomas Latimer,  
John M. Wetherill,  
Benjamin H. Pitfield,  
James E. Kaighn,  
Alfred H. Love,  
Jeremiah Willits,  
George Taber,  
Wm. L. J. Kinderlin,  
Mahlon H. Dickinson,  
James Peters,  
Abram Martin,

Wm. Armstrong, M. D.  
William Nicholson,  
Charles W. Funk,  
Philip P. Randolph,  
Samuel Townsend,  
Albert G. Rowland,  
Benjamin H. Shoemaker,  
Wm. Warner Caldwell,  
Henry Perkins,  
George M. Elkinton,  
J. M. Corse, M. D.,  
E. Griffin, M. D.,  
Isaac Barton,

J. H. Beckwith,  
Thomas A. Robinson,  
John H. Watt,  
George Milliken,  
John Klein,  
Theodore Townsend,  
Joshua Eyre,  
J. L. Wetherill,  
John C. Latimer,  
Charles G. Latimer,  
William J. Mullen,  
William J. Mullen,

### *Visiting Committee of the Eastern Penitentiary.*

Edward H. Bonsall,  
John J. Lytle,  
Edward Townsend,  
James E. Kaighn,  
Alfred H. Love,  
Jeremiah Willits,  
George Taber,  
William L. J. Kinderlin,

Mahlon H. Dickinson,  
James Peters,  
William Nicholson,  
Isaac Barton,  
Charles W. Funk,  
Samuel Townsend,  
Albert G. Rowland,  
Benjamin H. Shoemaker,

J. M. Corse, M. D.,  
E. Griffin, M. D.,  
J. H. Beckwith,  
John H. Watt,  
George Milliken,  
Theodore Townsend,  
Joshua Eyre,  
John Wetherill,

### *Visiting Committee of the County Prison.*

William Shippen, M. D.,  
Joseph R. Chandler,  
Charles Ellis,  
William S. Perot,  
Thomas Latimer,  
John M. Wetherill,

Benjamin H. Pitfield,  
Abram Martin,  
William Armstrong, M. D.,  
Philip P. Randolph,  
Wm. Warner Caldwell,  
Henry Perkins.

George M. Elkinton,  
Thomas A. Robinson,  
John Klein,  
J. Lukens, M. D.,  
Charles G. Latimer,  
William J. Mullen,

WILLIAM J. MULLEN is Agent of the County Prison, appointed  
spectors, and acting under their Direction, and also appointed by the Prison

ES.]

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[NO. 5.]

THE JOURNAL  
OF  
SON DISCIPLINE  
AND  
PHILANTHROPY.

PUBLISHED ANNUALLY  
IN THE DIRECTION OF "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR  
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1866.

# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

## Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.

When we consider that the obligations of benevolence which are founded on the precepts and examples of the Author of Christianity, are not cancelled by the follies or crimes of our fellow-creatures; and when we reflect upon the miseries which penury, hunger, cold, unnecessary severity, unwholesome apartments, and guilt (the usual attendants of prisons,) involve with them, it becomes us to extend our compassion to that part of mankind who are the subjects of those miseries. By the aid of humanity, their undue and illegal sufferings may be prevented; the links which should bind the whole family of mankind together, under all circumstances, be preserved unbroken; and such degrees and modes of punishment may be discovered and suggested, as may, instead of continuing habits of vice, become the means of restoring our fellow-creatures to virtue and happiness. From a conviction of the truth and obligations of these principles, the subscribers have associated themselves under the title of "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS."

For effecting these purposes, they have adopted the following CONSTITUTION :

### ARTICLE I.

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, two Counsellors, and an Acting Committee; all of whom shall be chosen at the Stated Meeting to be held in the first month (January) of each year, and shall continue in office until their successors are elected; but in case an election, from any cause, shall not be then held, it shall be the duty of the President to call a Special Meeting of the Society within thirty days, for the purpose of holding such election, of which at least three days notice shall be given.

### ARTICLE II.

The President shall preside in all meetings, and subscribe all public acts of the Society. He may call special meetings whenever he may deem it expedient; and shall do so when requested in writing by five members. In his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents may act in his place.

### ARTICLE III.

The Secretaries shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the Society, and shall conduct its correspondence.

NEW SERIES.

61.982  
NO. V. c†

# THE JOURNAL

OF

# PRISON DISCIPLINE

AND

# PHILANTHROPY.

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PHILADELPHIA:

J. B. CHANDLER, PRINTER, 306 & 308 CHESTNUT STREET, [GIRARD BUILDING.]

1866.



ROOMS OF THE  
PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY

FOR

**Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.**

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*At a Special Meeting of "THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR ALLEVIATING THE MISERIES OF PUBLIC PRISONS," held on the evening of the Twelfth Month, (December,) 19th, 1865, the Editorial Board, (appointed to take charge of the Journal and papers, and the Annual Report,) consisting of JOSEPH B. CHANDLER, JAMES J. BARCLAY, EDWARD H. BONSALE, JAMES M. CORSE, M. D., and PHILIP P. RANDOLPH, presented the Annual Report, which being read by the Chairman, was considered and approved, and the Acting Committee were directed to cause to be printed one thousand copies, and to make such alterations and additions as they may think proper. The Report to be signed by the President and Secretaries.*

*At a meeting of the Acting Committee, held Twelfth Month 21st, 1865, it was ordered that the Report be referred to the members by whom it was prepared, with instructions to carry out the wishes of the Society.*

JOHN J. LYTLE,  
SECRETARY.





# CONTENTS.

---

## PART FIRST.

|                                                     | PAGE |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|
| INTRODUCTION, - - - - -                             | 9    |
| PHILADELPHIA COUNTY PRISON, - - - - -               | 15   |
| FEMALE DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY PRISON, - - - - -       | 18   |
| BOARD OF INSPECTORS OF COUNTY PRISON, - - - - -     | 19   |
| HEATING, - - - - -                                  | 22   |
| EMPLOYMENT, - - - - -                               | 22   |
| CLASSIFICATION, - - - - -                           | 23   |
| READING, - - - - -                                  | 23   |
| MEANS OF EDUCATION, - - - - -                       | 23   |
| RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION, - - - - -                    | 24   |
| DIETARY, - - - - -                                  | 25   |
| SANITARY CONDITION, - - - - -                       | 26   |
| CLEANLINESS, - - - - -                              | 26   |
| DISCIPLINE, - - - - -                               | 27   |
| SUDDEN ILLNESS, - - - - -                           | 27   |
| EASTERN PENITENTIARY, - - - - -                     | 28   |
| AGENT, - - - - -                                    | 32   |
| SOME CASES SETTLED BY THE AGENT, - - - - -          | 38   |
| SEPARATE CONFINEMENT, - - - - -                     | 45   |
| LETTER OF J. B. SANBORN, ESQ., - - - - -            | 50   |
| LETTER OF REV. JOHN RUTH, - - - - -                 | 52   |
| MOVEMENT OF ACTING COMMITTEE AND SOCIETY, - - - - - | 56   |

|                                                           | PAGE |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETY, - - - - -                         | 58   |
| RESOLUTIONS RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN, - | 61   |
| LEGISLATION, - - - - -                                    | 63   |
| REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE OF LEGISLATURE, - - -           | 64   |
| REMARKS UPON THE OBJECT OF THE LEGISLATIVE REPORT, -      | 78   |
| CORRESPONDENCE, - - - - -                                 | 80   |
| INTERROGATORIES RELATIVE TO PRISONS AND ALMSHOUSES, -     | 81   |
| BERKS COUNTY POOR—LETTER FROM HON. J. PRINGLE JONES, -    | 83   |
| BERKS COUNTY PRISON—LETTER FROM HENRY TYSON, M. D., -     | 89   |
| INTERESTING LETTERS FROM OTHER COUNTIES, RELATIVE TO      |      |
| PRISON AND ALMSHOUSE, - - - - -                           | 91   |
| LETTER FROM MISS D. L. DIX, - - - - -                     | 99   |
| DIVERS SUBJECTS, - - - - -                                | 101  |

## PART SECOND.

|                                                        |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN REPORTS, - - - - -                | 104 |
| REPORTS ON THE PRISONS OF FRANCE, - - - - -            | 105 |
| PARDON, COMMUTATION, &C., IN THE PRISONS OF FRANCE, -  | 120 |
| OVERWORK " " " -                                       | 121 |
| CHILDREN " " " -                                       | 123 |
| NUMBER AND CHARACTER OF THE PRISON HOUSES OF FRANCE, - | 126 |
| " " OF THE PRISONS IN PARIS, -                         | 128 |
| PUNISHMENT OF PRISONERS, - - - - -                     | 129 |
| NUMBER OF PRISON HOUSES NOT IN PARIS, - - - - -        | 130 |
| DISCIPLINE, , - - - - -                                | 131 |
| LABOR AND PRODUCE, - - - - -                           | 132 |
| OTHER ITEMS RELATIVE TO FRENCH PRISONS, - - - - -      | 134 |
| PRISONS OF GREAT BRITAIN, - - - - -                    | 136 |
| SOUTH DISTRICT OF ENGLAND, - - - - -                   | 137 |

# CONTENTS.

vii

|                                                                                             | PAGE |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| NORTH DISTRICT OF ENGLAND, - - -                                                            | 141  |
| PRISONS OF SCOTLAND, - - -                                                                  | 145  |
| BRIDEWELLS AND PRISONS OF IRELAND, - -                                                      | 148  |
| STATE PRISON OF MAINE, IN THE UNITED STATES, -                                              | 158  |
| ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MAINE CONCERNING SHORTEN-<br>ING OF SENTENCES, - - -              | 160  |
| REPORT RELATIVE TO THE PENAL AND CHARITABLE INSTITU-<br>TIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS, - - -       | 161  |
| REPORT RELATIVE TO THE STATE PENITENTIARY OF CONNEC-<br>TICUT, - - -                        | 162  |
| REPORT RELATIVE TO THE PRISONS OF THE STATE OF NEW<br>YORK, - - -                           | 164  |
| REPORT RELATIVE TO PRISONS IN VIRGINIA, -                                                   | 170  |
| LETTER TO GOVERNOR PIERPONT FROM JEREMIAH WILLETTS,<br>RELATIVE TO PRISONS IN VIRGINIA, - - | 171  |
| REMARKS UPON THE REPORT, - - -                                                              | 173  |
| “ “ FRENCH REPORT, - -                                                                      | 174  |
| “ “ IRISH REPORT, - -                                                                       | 176  |
| “ “ PRISONS OF ITALY, - -                                                                   | 177  |
| GENERAL REMARKS, - - -                                                                      | 177  |

## PART THIRD.

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| DISTURBING CAUSES, WITH REMEDIES, - - | 179 |
| INTEMPERANCE, - - -                   | 184 |
| WANT OF HOME, - - -                   | 205 |
| YOUTHFUL DEPRAVITY, - - -             | 212 |
| COMING FROM THE COUNTRY, - -          | 221 |
| BAD BOOKS, - - -                      | 237 |
| REMEDIES—EARLY EDUCATION, - - -       | 230 |

**PART FOURTH.**

|                                                      | <b>PAGE</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS,</b> - - - - -                | - 238       |
| <b>THE INSANE,</b> - - - - -                         | - 240       |
| <b>SOCIETIES OF PATRONAGE,</b> - - - - -             | - 245       |
| <b>PHILANTHROPIC INSTITUTIONS OF PHILADELPHIA,</b> - | - 252       |
| <b>PRISON SHIPS,</b> - - - - -                       | - 256       |
| <b>DISCIPLINE IN PRISON,</b> - - - - -               | - 261       |
| <b>VIEWS FROM THE WEST,</b> - - - - -                | - 263       |
| <b>CONCLUSION,</b> - - - - -                         | - 267       |
| <b>LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE PRISON SOCIETY,</b> - -    | - 273       |
| <b>CORRESPONDING MEMBERS,</b> - - - - -              | - 279       |

# REPORT.

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## PART FIRST.

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The "Acting Committee" of the "Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," present to the parent body the Report of its proceedings for the year 1865, with such reflections, and such reference to the action and reports of other societies of a cognate character, as may throw light upon its own proceedings, and illustrate the growth and progress of social science,—especially touching the subjects of Prisons and Prison Discipline.

The idea of alleviating the miseries of prisons is no novelty. At all times, as far back as there is a record of systematic humanity, there seems to be a sense of general and particular merit in the action of those who, by any means, lessened the sufferings of the incarcerated, or diminished the number of those who were sent to prison.

It is probable that some of the miseries of public prisons—terrible miseries as we view them now—were

the result of a bad, a low, a suffering state in those who were not imprisoned. To make incarceration a punishment, or the means of vengeance, it must be less endurable than freedom, or it must lack some means of gratification which freedom possesses. We know—or suppose, at least—that the sufferings of the tenant of a dungeon were greater than those of the denizen of the open air; but all the miseries and deprivations of past imprisonment, which seem so intolerable when compared with the smaller miseries and deprivations of the present, may have something less of evil in their character, when contrasted only with the low enjoyments and life-long struggles and sorrows of the free.

Tolerable, comfortable indeed, as are some of the prisons of the present time, when compared with those of past centuries, it seems evident that the condition of the imprisoned has scarcely advanced *pari passu* with that of the free. Men look with horror upon the record of early writers, relative to the miserable state of the prisons even in England,—their wretchedness, filth, and the cruelty of their keepers in the times of the Henrys and of Mary and Elizabeth; but if they will consult the incidental admissions and statements of other writers, they will confess that the alleviation in the condition of the cells and their tenants, from Henry IV. to Victoria, was not greater than the improvement of the tenant-houses and their occupants in the same time. Howard and Elizabeth Fry have done great work in England, and caused great improvement wherever their services have been known. But Howard and Elizabeth Fry received their suggestions of improvement, and were

stimulated in their Godlike labors of philanthropy, by the disparity between the steps of humanity abroad and the movements of humanity in the prison,—by the obvious improvement in the comforts of the people in town and country, and the evident lagging of all improvement in the jail,—by the comfort and ease and enjoyment which commerce and manufactures were making common to all who could move within their influence, compared with the indifference to the claims of Christian philanthropy in behalf of the prisoner. Their holy work was one of compensation, one that tended to keep up the balance of conditions, to induce the abundance of gentle feelings that were wasted in unprofitable exercise, to find objects nearer home, though shut out from sight, and, having thus called up and directed the unemployed philanthropy into a proper channel, they continued the operation by appealing to the acquirers and possessors of wealth to second and confirm their labor, and induced them to “shake their superflux where it would second humanity and shew the heavens more just.” In the midst of that general occupation which successful commerce and flourishing arts ensure and reward, there are few who think of the duties of humanity. They aid the efforts of philanthropists when reminded of the necessities of others; but they are not of the class that says: “The cause which I knew not I searched out.” But if they strengthen the hands of those who have both time and inclination for works of mercy—works that are the duties of some, and of merit in all—they do much; and the blessings of the relieved will reach them through their almoners.



To second this holy effort, to try to forward the work of humanity towards the prisoner, to walk in the path, not always in the footsteps, of John Howard and Elizabeth Fry, was the motive for forming this Society. This motive has pervaded all the deliberations and actions of this Institution, and is avowed now, and we hope illustrated in the proceedings of the "Acting Committee during the past year.

Our best works of humanity—those that become most permanently and extensively useful—are usually those that have their origin in efforts directed to individual circumstances, and which spread with augmented demands, and with the knowledge and judgment afforded by experience.

"God sees from whole to part ; the human soul  
Must rise from individuals to the whole."

And hence the action of this Society has expanded ; its very existence has been the encouragement for forming, elsewhere, similar institutions, and extending their influence. Certain circumstances have given to some associations more obvious effects. In Massachusetts, the centre of such societies is the political and commercial capital of the State, and the State itself is one great Boston ; so that a proposition originating in the capital, and looking towards the public good, is at once comprehended and generally encouraged by the legislature, and it has no difficulty in making itself understood in the utmost borders of the State, and has no jealousy to encounter, and no querulous opposition to propitiate. And Massachusetts has a series of insti-

tutions that rest upon pure philanthropy, and honor no less the State that gave them corporate existence than the philanthropists who originated their plans and who now carry them into execution under the patronage of, and with responsibility to, the Commonwealth.

In Connecticut the number of humane institutions that are meliorating the condition or lessening the number of prisoners, is creditable to that ancient State.

The Society in New York City has obtained ample funds to carry out their views—to insure visitations of kindness to the city prison, to investigate the condition of every prison in the State; and it has so far connected itself with the interests and plans of the government, that it makes its report directly to the legislature, and has the whole statement, with its admirable comments, its instructive essays and its sound criticism, printed as one of the “Legislative Documents,”—thus saving expense to themselves, insuring a general circulation of the report throughout the State, and giving to the document the additional claim to respect which the legislative reception may afford.

The Society in New York has resolved to send a commission to Europe, to investigate the condition of public prisons, and to inquire minutely into their administration, as well in small as in large matters. We cannot doubt that the effort to obtain means will be fully successful, and that the commission will return stored with valuable information on the subject of their appointment.

We know little, if any thing, by positive observation only; it is by comparison that we are able to judge of

the true merit of any institution. It is not necessary that we copy exactly at home what we may approve abroad; but we can judge better its adaptation to our peculiar circumstances, and adapt our own to the suggestions from abroad, rather than adopt those without change.

The mere legislative proceedings of this Executive Committee, or of the Society, are not of sufficient general importance to be made a part of the Report; its action in itself and for itself alone needs a record only in its minutes of proceeding; but what concerns the community at large, and what concerns the action of this Society intended to extend its influence outwardly, is a fit subject for the Report, and will be presented as a part of the movements of the "Acting Committee," under the sanction of the Society.

But we have before us a great duty, not merely to see that the prisoner has the miseries of his condition alleviated, but to endeavor to prevent that state of society which necessarily makes men and women candidates, and successful candidates, for the prison. While we seek to establish virtue, and by that to alleviate the miseries of prisons, we must endeavor to understand, and, if possible, remove, or at least lessen, the disturbing causes. Inquiries into these evils and the means of remedy or regulation, will constitute a part of this Report, and augment the size, if not extend the influence, of the Journal.

We shall make a large, and, as we think, interesting abstract, of the reports upon the French prisons, and of those of Great Britain and Ireland, and use the reports

of the New York Society, to show what others are doing there, and how they do their work. And we are happily placed so as to be able to give a view of the condition of some of the prisons in Virginia.

With a view of giving an appearance of order to the papers which go to make up this number of our Journal, we shall make of them four separate divisions. The *first part* will include the proceedings of the "Acting Committee" and its agents, and some action of the Society, with some views of what concerns prisons and imprisonment, within the legitimate action of the Society.

The *second part* will contain carefully prepared abstracts of reports upon prisons in several parts of the United States, in France, Great Britain and Ireland.

The *third part* will contain remarks upon some of the causes of the crime with which society is plagued, and a reference to some of the preventives which are in the hands of the people.

The *fourth part* will contain some short papers upon additional subjects connected with the cause of humanity, with some concluding remarks.

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## PHILADELPHIA COUNTY PRISON.

Now, as formerly, the labors of the Society find objects in the County Prison and in the Eastern Penitentiary situated in this city. These are special objects of Committees who have their appointment and make

their reports solely with regard to these institutions and the doings and well-being of their numerous inmates. The Acting Committee, while as a body, it manages the whole concerns of the Society, and does nearly all but make the laws by which it is established and governed, is divided into two Committees; one having for its mission the alleviation of the miseries of the County Prison in Moyamensing; the other has the seat of its labors in the Eastern Penitentiary of the State located on Coates' Street.

The members of "the Committee on the County Prison," made in the course of the year 1865, about eight hundred visits, each giving his attention to the division assigned to him by the Committee, and each visitor had with him pamphlets calculated to arrest the attention of the reader and deepen the impression made by verbal monition. It cannot be denied that while the members of the Committee have exhibited great devotion to the services upon which they are engaged, there is need of more assistance. Most of those who undertake the work of visiting the County Prison are engaged in some business that demands a large portion of their attention, while their own families proffer claims that may not be lightly overlooked. One or two men of devotion who could command time and who possess an aptness to teach, would be of incalculable service among the male prisoners who profit by the frequency as well as the soundness of lessons in their cells. Much may be done with people of a certain class, if, by frequency of lessons, their thoughts are retained in the right channel and other circumstances are

kept from diverting their attention. The silence and solitude of the criminal's cell are favorable to lessons that have improvement for their end; and the comparative cheerfulness of the countenance of the visitors give a charm to his instruction, which in the noisy world and in ordinary circumstances might prove unfruitful. It is a mission which to fulfil perfectly one must love well, as it has in itself few attractions. The hypocrisy, the falsehood, the obstinacy, and often the indecency and blasphemy of the object invest it with great repulsiveness, yet these hypocrites, these liars, these obstinate and indecent blasphemers, are human beings, capable of improvement and responsible to God for their conduct and conversation; and those who visit them on errands of mercy feel that they, the visitors, may be held responsible for the failure of some of these prisoners to adopt a better course of life. If they could visit them, and by these visitations they could induce these poor wretches to regain the position they have lost, or arrive at the position which they have abilities to fulfil, then they may be in some degree responsible for the evils perpetuated or the good unattained which are consequent upon their neglect.

It is difficult to say how much those who neglect the visitation of the imprisoned make themselves responsible for evils resulting from neglect, but it is not difficult for an observer to comprehend the vast advantage resulting from these visitations of mercy, advantages moral and physical—advantages temporal and eternal—advantages to the visitor himself in the luxury of doing good, and advantages to the prisoner in the encouraging effects of interest and kindness.

As yet we have narratives only of those men who, having received moral and religious instructions, have profitted thereby and gone forth capable, willing and sure to discharge some of the duties of good men. Perhaps at some future time we shall have an account of the reflective effect of *giving* good lessons, how that kind of charity is as blessed "to him that gives as to him that takes," and how the evening of one's days has been made calm and peaceful by the efforts of early years to spread calm and peace over the heart of others. We have no doubt that many at the door of the prisoner's cell have been startled by their own dehortation against errors, and been urged into additional virtue by the very lessons which they were giving to others. All good attempts seem to be as subjective as they are objective; if evil plans come back to plague their inventor, it seems just that good efforts should bless their source.

IN THE FEMALE DEPARTMENT of the County Prison the arrangement of the corridors and cells are such as to render a visit quite unobjectionable to the most fastidious. Cleanliness and order pervade the whole establishment of the County Prison, but in this department the great amount of sunlight admitted renders obvious and pleasing the result of the labors of cleanliness. The excellent ladies who visit this part of the Prison, open the door by permission of the keeper and matron, and take their seat with the object of their solicitude and efforts, and these visits which are looked for with anxiety by the prisoner have been productive of much good.

It has been found possible to have female visitors, pious females of such a variety of creeds as to ensure their welcome and usefulness in all the convict cells; and thus far, nothing unpleasant has arisen between these excellent persons in consequence of the difference of their creeds. Their pupils are sometimes less tolerant of *religious* difference than their teachers, but this spirit of hostility is not exactly American, though it is not difficult to arouse it even with those who have not evinced much attachment to creed—it is certainly most easily aroused in those who in other respects 'have shown very little attachment to any christian virtue or exhibited any evidence of christian grace.

The government of the Prison is committed to the hands of eleven Inspectors appointed by the three Courts of Record in this city, each Court appointing one for each Judge. The Board of Inspectors appoint the Superintendent of the Prison, the clerk, the matron, physician, &c. The other officers are appointed by the Superintendent. The keepers, turnkeys, watchmen, &c., amount to between twenty and thirty persons. Each gallery has a special keeper, and each branch of business has an overseer. Keepers are on duty in turn every night; and in addition, assistant keepers called watchmen, come on duty every evening as the day officers withdraw, so that there is always a considerable force at the Prison.

THE BOARD OF INSPECTORS meet monthly and more frequently if necessary. The members of the Board are divided into monthly committees of three members,



whose duties are to look after the interests of the Prison, to advise with the Superintendent, and to release such prisoners, as by law they are authorized to discharge when they think circumstances render such discharge proper, and they make monthly reports of their doings and upon the general state of the Prison. It usually happens that one or another of these inspectors is to be found daily at the Prison. The general administration of the Prison affairs is however in the hands of the able Superintendent.

The Board of Inspectors appoint also an Agent, whose duties are to look after the interests of the Prison and of prisoners, and to settle suits that seem to have originated rather in bad feelings than in bad acts. This Agent is also, though not necessarily, the Agent of "The Society for alleviating the miseries of public Prisons," and as such he takes into the discharge of his duties also the humane wishes of the Society, as well as those of the Inspectors. The Agent also provides for preaching in the corridors of the Prison on Sunday.

In this connection we may perhaps perform a good work by making nearly the same exposition of the affairs and government of the Philadelphia County Prison, that the report of the New York Society has given of the several Prisons in that State.

The whole establishment consists of four principal buildings, with numerous smaller structures for stable, bakery, cook house, out houses, workshops, &c.

The central front building is large, with castellated towers, the whole presenting the appearance of what the French would call a *Chateau Fort*. This is occupied

by the Superintendent and his family, and in it is the hall in which the Board of eleven Inspectors hold their monthly meetings; here, too, are the principal offices of the establishment.

At the north of the main building is what was built for a Debtor's Apartment; it has a handsome red stone front of Egyptian order, and contains, besides a good residence for the keeper's family, between twenty and thirty cells. As imprisonment for debt is no longer practised, this building is used for some United States prisoners, witnesses, &c. This building is not under the same direction as is the other part. On the south side of the central building is an immense structure, into which all prisoners are first received, and there they are recorded. Here, in cells on the ground floor, all vagrants and drunken men serve out their short imprisonment. In the second story and the third story, the cells are occupied by the untried men, and by males who are sentenced to short terms of imprisonment, but are not called convicts. There are about 204 cells in this building. North of this range are the numerous buildings for shops, &c., already mentioned. Still further north is the immense range called the Male Convict Department, containing nearly 300 cells. Still north of this is a handsome garden, with fruit trees, &c., separated from another flower-garden by a high wall; north of which, and between two well cultivated pieces of ground, is the Female Department, in the rear of the Debtors' Apartment, containing about 100 cells, and rooms for the family of the principal matron.

The ground floor of this and the other buildings is of

brick. On each side are the cells, with well boarded floors; the cells are about nine by twelve. The galleries of the second and third stories of all the prisons are of iron frames, floored with boards.

Each cell is supplied with one gas burner, with water-closet, and with hydrant-pipe, and a constant supply of water at will. Each cell has a window which may be opened and closed at will. In the south, and in the Convict Department, occupied by males, there is for each cell a grated iron door, and outside of that is a strong, close wooden door. On the north side, the Female Department, there are no gratings. A small wicket in the main wooden door, is opened to supply food, and give circulation to air, and to admit of conversation with the prisoners. The door is never opened, excepting by the keeper, or the matron, or female visitor. In the northern building all the females are confined. One part is devoted to those who have been tried and sentenced, the others to the untried accused, and the drunkard and vagrant. The sentenced prisoner is separately confined—that is, each has a cell to herself, as do the male convicts; and each cell has a bed, with comfortable sheets and blanket, a table and a chair, besides the other means of cleanliness and comfort already mentioned.

**HEATING.**—Each department of the prison is warmed by numerous furnaces in the cellars, supplying an ample amount of heat in the coldest weather.

**EMPLOYMENT.**—The male convicts make boots and shoes and weave; those who enter without a knowledge of these arts, are soon taught to practise them with

more or less success. The females make up the clothing, the bedding, &c. Cleanliness is ensured by the unlimited supply of water for each cell.

**CLASSIFICATION.**—The convicts have separate cells; and it would be better if the untried and the vagrants could be insured the same advantage; but this is at present impossible. Care, judgment, and humanity are exercised in the disposal of the untried and vagrant, so that the least possible injury may result from bad association; and, whenever it is practicable, separate confinement is provided, according to law, for the untried, and consideration given to the circumstances and antecedents of the prisoner.

**READING.**—Each convict department (male and female) is supplied with a very good library; and some pains have been taken to select books that would amuse as well as instruct. In the male convict department a well-educated prisoner is librarian, and he discharges his duties with propriety. In the female side, the keeper of the department undertakes the work of librarian, and at stated periods supplies the prisoners with books, having reference to their ability and their attainments. The duty is faithfully and acceptably discharged. One of the Inspectors has also furnished books for the women who are committed for various violations of law, or who are awaiting trial for considerable offences.

**MEANS OF EDUCATION.**—The means of primary education are not provided by the authorities of the prison,

but many of the visitors of "The Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Prisons" have not thought it unworthy of their mission to teach the convict to read the lessons of virtue which he had received orally, and hence some who came in with no knowledge of even the alphabet of their language, have been discharged with ability to read, and even to write a legible hand. Some have acquired a very beautiful hand-writing. One, in particular, became the mistress of a beautiful hand-writing, who with great difficulty conquered the multiplication table, but gave up in despair at the mysteries of long division. Several have learned to write a handsome hand who were unable to read what they had written; perhaps a natural gift for drawing had enabled them to imitate their "copy."

**RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.**—Each convict cell is furnished with a well-printed and strongly-bound copy of the Bible, and a copy of the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church. The Agent of the Prison, WILLIAM J. MULLEN, Esq., is authorized to procure "moral instruction;" and usually twice on each Sunday there is preaching in the different departments, with ordinary religious exercises. These are conducted generally by a clergyman of the Episcopal Church, (Rev. Mr. ALLEN,) and a Methodist clergyman, and some local preachers of the last-named denomination. When a convict on the female side is committed to her cell, it is customary for the Visiting Inspector on duty to inquire of the prisoner whether she is satisfied with the books in her cell. If she declares herself satisfied, nothing

further is done in that respect. If she professes to be a Roman Catholic, then she is supplied with a prayer-book and other devotional books of her own creed, with other means of aiding devotion. Visitors of the prison leave at the cell door pamphlets of a religious and moral character, which supply profitable reading to the inmates; and some of the religious papers of the city find their way to the cells. Respect is usually paid to the creed of the prisoner. Several ladies visit the female department, and one or two of them have done good work among the colored prisoners, by teaching some of them to read. The Catholic portion of the female convicts receive a weekly visit from two or more well-educated ladies of a "religious order" whose professions require of them works of mercy of that kind. Clergymen of any denomination required by the convict are sent for by the officers of the prison, and every facility afforded for the exercise of their functions.

The male department, especially the large convict block, has, beside the library already mentioned, stated instruction from voluntary visitors, chiefly those from the "Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Prisons;" and great good has resulted from their kind ministrations. The clergy come hither when called, and the cells are always accessible, at suitable seasons, by those who come to do good to their inmates.

**DIETARY.**—Three meals a day are served. In the morning, *coffee*, and bread for the day. At noon, soup, with the meat from which it is made, and various vegetables in their season. At evening, tea in the summer, and mush and molasses for the winter, with variations.

**SANITARY CONDITION.**—The prison has a regular physician, who comes twice a day, and more frequently, if necessary. There is also a resident apothecary, who is a physician, so that any sudden call may be readily answered. The health of the prison is good. Sickness occurs, but chiefly among the debauched, who bring with them their diseases, and suffer in the cells the consequence, if not the punishment, of their violation of natural laws. The regular physician goes through every department, every morning, and receives from the proper keeper a list for visiting.

**CLEANLINESS.**—The Philadelphia County Prison does credit to the general character of the city for desperate and persevering cleanliness. Outside, the garden and lawn are samples of neatness and utility, and inside, water, and the lime bucket are in constant use. The cells of the convicts are scrubbed and white-washed with great frequency; and the clothing and bedding are kept in constant cleanliness. The cells of the vagrants and untried are cleaned thoroughly and whitewashed, sometimes twice a week, and, in summer, oftener. No sooner is one cell left vacant by the discharge of its occupants, than it is submitted to thorough cleansing, before it can be again tenanted. The walls of the corridors are almost constantly receiving touches from the whitewash brush, and the floors are patterns of cleanliness for house-keepers. Along the lower floor are large dishes of chloride of lime, which tend to keep the air pure. It may almost be said that no house in the city is more healthful than the County Prison; and none anywhere affords

better treatment, of all kinds, for the sick poor who are its inmates.

**DISCIPLINE.**—The constant watchfulness, the immediate presence of some officer or official visitor, usually render any punishment unnecessary. Occasionally some sudden outbreak of bad passions subjects a prisoner to the dark cell for a day or two. Chains are generally a preventive, applicable to those whom the reaction of debauchery exposes to the danger of committing violence upon themselves. Convicts seldom are submitted to any punishment. The females who will converse with each other out of their windows, learn that a small strip of leather is hung up at their door, and while that remains, they must submit to a diet of bread and water, unless they be sick. Twenty-four hours suffice for this. The strap also warns off, for the time, the visit of kindness of the visiting inspector on duty.

**SUDDEN ILLNESS AT NIGHT.**—Inquiries were made by the New York Committee, at every prison in that State, as to the means of procuring help for a prisoner taken suddenly and severely ill in the night. It was a question of humanity; and the answers show that in some of the prisons no means of procuring immediate assistance are provided.

From what is said of the number of officers of various kinds always on duty at the Philadelphia County Prison, it is evident that the most trifling intimation—a knock or a call—could be heard; and it is certain that they would be, and it is a fact that they are, at once answered.



This, in the female department, is the more necessary, as the birth of children is by no means an unfrequent occurrence; and in no case has it ever been known that in that, or any other sudden emergency, there has been a want of prompt attention. The Matron resides in the building of the female department, and her apartments are in the centre of the building; and a careful watchman, of long experience, makes a continual round of the corridors, and thus passes by each cell. It follows that, in case of illness, assistance can be promptly procured, and at the same time order is maintained.

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## EASTERN PENITENTIARY.

The Eastern Penitentiary receives the attention of a large Committee from this Society, and the circumstances of the prisoners render easy access to their attention, and, in time, to their confidence and their affection. When the first feeling of astonishment is over, and the prisoner begins to comprehend, and make calculations upon, the time of his incarceration, he finds in the presence of the regular visitor to his cell, a cheering and comfort which he had for a time believed unknown in that penal abode; at least he believed himself unsusceptible of consolation while a prisoner. Confidence soon springs up, and the unfortunate occupant of the cell finds a real gratification in unburthening his heart, from time to time, to one who has sought him, only to promote his present comfort and future welfare.

The visitor feels this, as well as the prisoner, and he feels the responsibility devolved upon him by the prisoner's profession and manifestation of confidence; and with this softening of feeling on both sides, are commenced the business of moral instruction by the visitor, and the willing and profitable reception of wholesome truth; the head and the heart receive cultivation, and the work of good goes on. This is the constant movement of the members of the Committee on Penitentiaries. Last year we gave some account of the doings of the Committee, and the happy results of their labors, and we now have occasion only to add this,

The "Committee on the Eastern Penitentiary" continue their visits and labor at the Prison, and feel encouraged by the belief that their efforts are not in vain.

Some of the cases referred to, in our Report of last year, of discharged prisoners who had resolved to "cease to do evil and learn to do good," are still under care, and give evidence of a firm determination to carry out their good resolves.

The Library is a source from which the prisoners derive much advantage. It contains 2,343 volumes of well-selected books in the English language, and a large number in the German language.

The following is a summary of the visits made by the Committee for the year 1865.

|                                                     |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Number of visits at the Penitentiary during the     |       |
| year 1865, . . . . .                                | 425   |
| Number of interviews with prisoners in their cells, | 1,724 |
| Amount carried forward, . . . . .                   | 2,149 |

|                                                                     |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Amount brought forward, . . . . .                                   | 2,149 |
| Number of interviews with prisoners at the cell<br>doors, . . . . . | 1,457 |
| <hr/>                                                               |       |
| Total interviews during the year, . . . . .                         | 3,606 |
| Average prisoners visited each month, . . . . .                     | 202   |

The Society seeks the co-operation of females, in their labors in the prisons, especially among the female convicts; and they do not doubt that much of their hope of being useful to that class of prisoners, has been realized by the faithful labors of women, when and where woman's peculiar adaptability to the work could be most successful. It is gratifying to state that additional means of usefulness have been secured in this department of the Penitentiary, by the renewal of labors by some of the female co-workers with the Visiting Committee, and additional labor from the visitors of the same religious order that attend, at stated periods, the female convicts in the County Prison.

It is perhaps a subject of felicitation, that while men and women of all creeds and climes find their way, through our courts of justice, into the cells of the Eastern Penitentiary, men and women of every creed and clime find their way, by the liberal courtesy of the

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\* The visits here referred to, are those made by the members of the Committee on the regular days of visitation. A much larger number of visits are paid by them and by persons having in view the good of the prisoner and acting with the concurrence of the Society. This desirable field for such labors seems to be well tilled; and it is to the honor of the volunteer visitor, and to the lasting good of the prisoners, that so much time and patience and kindness are given to the cause of humanity in this penitentiary.

administration of the prison, into the same cells, to deal with erring brothers and sisters, and, if not to open the doors of the prison with miraculous power, at least in the same motive to pour the light of truth, of love and religion, into the abode of felony.

We do not regard the ready admission of persons of avowed denominational adherence, as any sign of a denominational tendency in those who seek or grant the admission. Nor, indeed, is that tendency imputable, even where the denomination of the visitor is specially considered. Proselytism is not the end of those who call, or of those who come. Men and women imprisoned for crime have often just as strong an attachment to the creed in which they were reared, as have those who have practised the best portions of that creed, and they are often jealous for its requirements just in proportion as they have departed therefrom; hence it has been found here and elsewhere, that the prisoners are more benefitted by religious instruction from persons of their own creed, than from those of different denominations, other things being equal; and hence, it is with pleasure that we announce that women have sought and been admitted to the cells of the females in the Penitentiary, whose creed and religious practice are in exact conformity to that in which the convict had been reared. This, of course, not to make converts from one creed to another, (the tendency would be to prevent that,) but to insure the readiest access to the heart,—perhaps through the prejudices of the prisoner.

Good has been done by the female visitors to the Penitentiary. Good will be multiplied, it is confidently

believed, by the multiplication of those visitors, who show by their labor and its results that they come to "do good and communicate."

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## AGENT.

MR. WILLIAM J. MULLEN is still the Agent of the Society, and is constant and indefatigable in his labors to carry out the views of those by whom he is appointed ; and it appears to be greatly promotive of the object of his work, that he is also the Agent of the Board of Inspectors of the County Prison ; so that there is scarcely a beneficial act which he reports to the Society, and receives therefor its approbation, that is not, at the same time, quite within the humane and just views of the Inspectors. And it is gratifying to know that that body regard with entire approval the labors of Mr. Mullen in behalf of some of the unfortunate persons that are committed to the County Prison.

Of course, a large proportion of those who are imprisoned for misdemeanors and felony, have committed the crime with which they are charged : they may indeed hope to defeat all efforts to prove their guilt, or they may seek to create such doubts as may work to their benefit ; but many of them are really guilty, and deserve punishment. But guilty as they are, they have some rights as human beings, and they have interests that may claim respect of some one. And even with these the Agent has some business. He is to be appealed to

for assistance in various ways, such as justice permits and mercy demands. He may find something to do in arranging the outside business, and especially the family affairs of the criminal, so that, while the husband and father may be called to suffer, the innocent wife and the dependent children may have all possible aid from what he can secure to them. The business of the Agent is only to assist such a prisoner in the use of whatever right is left to him ; it is not to interpose himself, or his employers, between justice and its legitimate victims.

Another class of prisoners are committed on suspicion ; and no proof can be furnished of their guilt, save the somewhat vague *ex parte* oath upon which the magistrate founds the commitment. It might be supposed that no agency would be required to save such a prisoner from a verdict of guilty and its consequent imprisonment, and little risk would be incurred, in leaving such a case, generally, to the discrimination of a jury, under the proper instruction of the court. But when is that judge to instruct the jury, and that jury to try the case ? Such prisoners often remain in prison for several months. Not being able to procure bail, they must await the sitting of the court, and then just in proportion to their innocence is the likelihood that their case will not be acted on ; and this from no neglect of duty on the part of the prosecuting officer. With the immense amount of business constantly pressing upon his office, he naturally takes the case which startles most by its criminality ; or, when calling up those of minor character, he is likely to take those for which witnesses have been supplied. Hence the person suffers

longest who is imprisoned for some small misdemeanor, that would scarcely have been noticed but for the malice of the prosecutor, who, knowing the weakness of his case, is willing to wreak his vengeance on the offender by letting him suffer, from want of testimony to prove his guilt. Into these cases the Agent at once inquires, and, satisfied of the innocence of the accused, or that the offence has been more than expiated by the imprisonment which he undergoes on the charges without a trial, he proceeds to arrange a settlement with the prosecutor, and, failing in that, he forces the case into court, (with the consent of the District Attorney,) and thus procures the release of the sufferer, and sometimes the punishment of him who, in the indulgence of a bad spirit, brought about that suffering. We do not mean that the Agent is the Nemesis of the criminal laws; but it is certain that the exposure of a great wrong often inflicts a greater injury upon the offender than he had purposed to the offended. It seems almost impossible to preserve the operation of the criminal law from oppressing those who by accident or error may be placed within its action. The stranger arrested on a trumped-up charge, is as liable to the prison as the most guilty. As a stranger, he is likely to be without friends to go his bail; and still more likely to be without means to pay for defence. His case is at once brought to the attention of the Agent. And, indeed, it may be said of the Agent, with regard to all these matters, that "the cause which he knows not he inquires out;" and some extracts which we shall give from his monthly reports, will show the results of his labors.

It must not be inferred that in all the cases in which the Agent interferes, the prisoner is, or is supposed to be, innocent. The question is not, in many cases, as it regards the fact, but as it regards the extent of depravity, and the effect of continued punishment, and the effect of the loss of time, and the influence of bad associations, not on the prisoner alone, but upon his family.

Sometimes the child is arrested for pilfering. Inquiries are instituted as to the frequency of the act, the character of temptation, and the chance of saving the offender, if legal punishment is withheld.

Sometimes the parent commits some act of violence, of which he is ashamed, and it is evident that imprisonment is only multiplying trouble at home. The Agent visits the prosecutor and modifies his feelings, and then procures from the magistrate a discharge for the offender, who perhaps never before saw the inside of a prison, and by the good feeling restored, is placed in a situation which seems secure from any likelihood of his again occupying a cell.

Family differences are often healed by the timely interposition of the Agent. Coarse habits, some of them on both sides, often lead to quarrels between the husband and wife, and the one that is strongest, and who does the most harm to the other, frequently completes the wrong by sending the sufferer, not always innocent, to prison. Hundreds of this kind of cases are acted upon every year; and when an Inspector of the prison can find time to acquaint himself with the circumstances of the inmates of the cell, he may do much good by exercising his authority to dismiss the prisoner, if in



his power, or by calling the attention of the Agent to the matter.

There is one class of cases to which, in former reports, we have referred, and which are always worthy of the notice of those who visit prisons with a view and an ability to discriminate: it is that of Disorderly Houses. All, in cities, understand pretty well what this term implies, and all who understand the ways of the city know well that the charge might be made with great justice in hundreds of instances which never reach the magistrate's docket. But in very many of the cases that reach the prison record, it is found that the prisoner has not been disorderly, has not done any thing unusual, has not openly committed any wrong. But the poor creature had hired, for one dollar a week, a room of some tenant of the whole house, and, in the mutation of things abroad, a person can be found who will pay one dollar and a-half a week; and if the one-dollar tenant will not at once come to the new terms, nor quit the house, she can be forced to the one or the other by sending her down to prison on a charge of "disorderly house." Nothing, of course, is to be proved, in court, against the prisoner, *when the day of trial* shall arrive; But what utter ruin for him or her to await that time! Such persons cannot find bail; and so the Agent sees the prosecutor, and the charge is withdrawn, on condition of leaving the house,—and thus fraud and falsehood gain the day. Of course, hundreds of these charges are well founded, that is to say, disorder exists; but even in such cases the motive for making the charge is little better than that which we noticed above, and the

disorder only becomes intolerable when something can be gained by bringing an accusation.

One very important office of the Agent is to receive the prisoner when he has completed his time, to conduct him to some establishment where employment may be obtained—or failing to find such a place, or the prisoner—preferring to go “home,” the Agent procures for him a railroad pass, and supplies him with clothes, and means for food till he reaches his destination. Much good in this way has been done for young women who, led into vice and crime by city habits, have desired to return to their parents. And in this connection it may not be improper to say, that the several Railroad Companies having termini in Philadelphia, have been most charitable in supplying free tickets, on the application of the Agent, for those who would have continued to do wrong, and to come to the prison, if they had not been helped away.

The whole statement of the Agent, of his success in dealing with important cases, will prove exceedingly interesting to the reader, as they are creditable to him. They will be found at some length in his annual report; but not more than five or six per cent. of all the releases which he procures are mentioned, as most of them are regarded as of less interest. But, in reality, the thousands of cases in which his interference restores the husband or the wife to the family, or saves a boy from becoming a confirmed thief, or a girl from being an abandoned woman, deeply concern society, and are thus important. Those who would know how much interest these trifling cases have, should see the earnestness of

relatives to procure their settlement, and hear the thanks of the released for the successful efforts in their behalf.

Of the many thousand dollars saved to the city by the interference of the Agent in cases which he settles, we say nothing, as our business is with the humanitarian side of the question, not with the pecuniary; though at the present moment even the latter is not unworthy consideration.

NUMBER 1—Was the case of a German boy, who was arrested and committed to prison upon the charge of larceny. After investigating the case, the Agent went to the alderman, and saw that the boy was immediately released. This was a very remarkable case. The prisoner was a boy about seventeen years of age, who came to this port in a German vessel, and did not understand much of our language. He was kidnapped from the vessel by a man who took him to Trenton, New Jersey, for the purpose of putting him into the army. The boy, however, refused to enlist, or to give his consent to this proceeding.

He was then brought back to Philadelphia and put into the hands of a shipping master, who had him shipped, and received fifty dollars (\$50) of his advance pay; no portion of which was given to the boy, but twenty dollars were given to the man that kidnapped him and tried to dispose of him at Trenton. The boy refused to be shipped, and because he would not, a false charge of larceny was made against him, and he was sent to prison. This was done in the hope of frightening him, and in this way forcing him to ship or enlist.

The parties accused him of stealing a coat. The investigation of the Agent showed that they had loaned him the coat which they accused him of stealing. This charge was made a pretext to enable them to imprison him until he should consent to be disposed of as they wished. The Agent went to the committing magistrate, and to the prosecutors, and told them, in a manner not to be misunderstood, that if they did not immediately release the boy from prison, he (the Agent,) would bring the case before the Court, in such a way that would not only insure the prisoner's release, but would, in all proba-

bility, result in the imprisonment of those who had conspired against this unfortunate young stranger. When this had been said to the alderman, he sent for the parties, who consented to the immediate release of the prisoner.

This case was truly distressing, as he was a stranger in this country, and without friends. It was a clear case of conspiracy on the part of bad men, who were willing to sacrifice this boy, to put money into their pockets. As it was, he was at once discharged, without costs.

NUMBER 2—Was the case of a colored woman, who was accused of larceny, an offence of which she was not guilty, as was shown upon an investigation of the case by the Agent. The fact was, that the prisoner had benevolently taken the prosecutor, who was a white woman, into her house and given her shelter for the night. On the next morning, this woman took a portion of her clothing and pawned it, then went into a rum-shop, purchased rum and got drunk. She left the pawn tickets in the rum-shop, with her own name upon them. This showed that she had herself disposed of the very clothing which she had accused the prisoner of stealing. After the Agent had discovered this fact, he informed the magistrate, who promptly discharged the prisoner, instead of detaining her for trial at the next court.

NUMBER 3—Was the case of a man who was charged with the larceny of two newspapers from the premises of one of our principal hotels. The prisoner said he did not steal the papers,—that a gentleman, who was a stranger, bought them, read them, and then threw them away, when he (the prisoner) gathered them up. The Agent inquired into his character, and found it good. He had been employed as a book-keeper in a mercantile house in this city for eight years, and only left when his employers gave up business. The proprietor of the hotel where the alleged offence was committed, gave the Agent a written statement, to be presented to the District Attorney, asking for the immediate release of the prisoner, which was cheerfully given by the Court. The prisoner was respectably connected, and his prompt discharge was appreciated by himself and family.

NUMBER 4—Was the case of a colored woman, who had been committed to prison on the charge of larceny. On an investigation by

the Agent, it was ascertained that she had received two articles from the prosecutor, to wash. While in her charge, some person, in her absence, had stolen them. The prosecutor was not satisfied with her account of the matter, and had her arrested and committed upon the above charge.

The property was afterwards found in a pawn-shop, where it had been pawned by the thief in her own name. The Agent informed the magistrate of these facts, and showed that the prisoner had been robbed of these articles by the party who pawned them. The prisoner expressed a willingness to pay for the articles, as soon as she was able to do so; but this availed her nothing, and she was committed to prison. When the true state of the case was made known to the magistrate and the prosecutor, the prisoner was honorably discharged.

NUMBER 5—Was the case of two colored men, who were strangers in our city; one had been committed for assault and battery, and the other upon the charge of swindling. An investigation showed both of these charges, not only to be false, but that the prosecutor himself was actually the guilty party, he having robbed one of the prisoners of his watch, and taken from them a bag containing clothing which belonged to both of them.

All this was done for the purpose of distressing them, in the hope of compelling them to enlist for three hundred dollars (\$300) each, which was the amount this unscrupulous man offered them, being less than half the sum the Government and the ward associations were giving at the time.

As they were British subjects, just arrived from Nassau, and as they did not wish to enter the army, they refused his offer, asking him at the same time to restore their property. He declined to do this, and because they complained of his bad conduct, he brought the false charges against them, and had them sent to prison.

The Agent immediately applied to the Court for a writ of *habeas corpus*. This was granted by Judge LUDLOW, and, on being brought before the Court, they were discharged. The Agent then accompanied them to the British Consul, who took charge of them, supplied them with comfortable lodgings, and promised, at the same time, to send them back to Nassau. He also said he would compel the prosecutor to give up the watch and clothing which he had taken from them.

**NUMBER 6—**Was the case of a man and his wife, who had been imprisoned by his sister, upon the charge of larceny. The offence consisted in the wife having taken some clothing out of a trunk, and which she pawned for five dollars, to enable her to get bread for her starving children. The husband was out of employment at the time. It was mid-winter, and they were without fuel to keep themselves and their children warm. Their three little ones were really in a suffering condition at the time when this woman took the things which her sister-in-law had left in care for safe keeping.

She hoped that her husband would soon get employment, and earn some money to enable her to redeem the articles before her sister-in-law came for them; but her hopes, in this respect, were not realized. When the sister discovered that her clothing had been taken from the trunk, she was very angry, and, in the excitement, sued them and had them committed to prison.

Thus they were separated from their children, who were left locked up at home, with no person to care for them. The Agent immediately called upon the prosecutor and reasoned with her, when she consented to the release of the prisoners, and expressed her sorrow for having imprisoned them. She at once offered to pay all expenses, and they were discharged.

**NUMBER 7—**Was the case of two colored women, who were very poor, and earned their living by washing. One of them had an infant with her, at the breast. She had received some clothing from a man, to wash. When she had finished the job, she expected the pay for what she had done, to enable her to get the necessaries of life for her family; but in this she was disappointed. The owner of the clothes informed her that he had not money enough to pay for the washing of all of them, but would pay for a part, and would leave the remainder until he came again. She told him this would not suit her, that she wanted the pay for the washing at once; but he did not pay her. Subsequently she requested the girl who lived in the house with her to take the things and pawn them for a sufficient sum to pay herself the balance for the washing.

The owner came for the remainder of his clothing, when she told him what she had done with them, and offered him the ticket. that he

might redeem them. He declined to do this, sued the two women, and had them committed to prison, together with the infant. After this the Agent saw that the things were redeemed and returned to the owner, when the prisoners were immediately released.

NUMBER 8—Was the case of a woman who was improperly committed to prison upon a charge of the larceny of a cloak. The investigation showed that the cloak had been given her, by the owner, to pawn. The Agent saw the prosecutor, and obtained her consent to the release of the prisoner and to pay the costs. The prisoner was confined of an infant during the short time she was a prisoner. She had had also a little boy at home who needed her care. The prosecutor took charge of him while his mother was imprisoned.

NUMBER 9—Was the case of an old man and his son, imprisoned by his wife upon the charge of assault and battery. She was the second wife, and there were two sets of children. She desired him to put his children out of the house, and to retain hers. He refused to do this. He and his son were very industrious, and were good workmen. They were willing to work for the support of all; but this did not suit the wife: she wanted the house to the exclusion of his family. About this they quarrelled, and came to blows. The son protected his father, and she had them both committed to prison. The Agent succeeded in convincing her and the magistrate that they were wrong in having them imprisoned. They then consented to their discharge, and the difficulty was adjusted by the Agent's interference.

NUMBER 10—Was the case of a soldier who was on furlough. He had been over a year in the Libby Prison, and had suffered every thing short of death. While passing through our city, on his way to New York, some person treated him, drugged his liquor, and robbed him of over one hundred dollars, and then had him committed to prison upon the charge of abuse.

The Agent saw that he was immediately released, and gave him some money to assist him on his way to New York.

NUMBER 11—Was the case of two women, mother and daughter,

who were imprisoned upon the charge of the larceny of five dollars from a sister-in-law.

The money had been taken by the daughter, who believed she had a right to it. This money had been left by the brother with his wife to be used for the benefit of his sister, if she needed it during his absence in the army. His sister, one of the prisoners, was a cripple, and had been sick for five months. Her mother had nursed her and cared for her in the absence of the son. They were in want of the necessities of life, and asked the sister-in-law for some money; but she was selfish, and would not give them any. The consequence was, that the sick sister went to the trunk, and took out five dollars, and expended it for the benefit of herself and her mother. For this they were both committed to prison. The Agent went to the prosecutor, and convinced her that she and the magistrate had committed a great wrong in imprisoning, under the circumstances, the mother and sister of her husband in his absence.

When she was made to understand, in a manner not to be mistaken, that her husband would, in all probability, hold her accountable for her improper conduct toward his mother and sister, she consented to their immediate release.

NUMBER 12—Was the case of the mate of a vessel, who had borrowed seventeen dollars (\$17), fourteen years ago, from a sea captain. The parties met in about ten months after the money had been borrowed, when the prisoner paid seven dollars on account. They met again in about a year from this period, when a second instalment of nine dollars was paid by the prisoner, which left but one dollar to be paid. They then separated, and subsequently, in about twelve years, met again in this city, when a dispute arose between the parties about the balance owing. The captain contended that the balance due him was ten dollars, with interest, instead of one dollar, as the prison said. The result was, the prisoner was arrested and committed to prison for the debt. As the imprisonment was illegal, the Agent applied for a writ of *habeas corpus*, and had him discharged by the Court, in time for him to take his position in the vessel before she sailed from our port. This was accomplished by Judge Allison authorizing his discharge without costs.



NUMBER 13—Was the case of a young officer belonging to the Navy. He had indulged too freely in intoxicating liquors, and while on his way home at a late hour, sat down upon the foot-path and fell asleep. Subsequently he was aroused by a police officer, who, as the prisoner thought, handled him rather roughly, and he therefore made some resistance, and tore the officer's clothing, for which he was sent to prison. The Agent saw that the officer was compensated for the damage done, and the prisoner was immediately released, and permitted to return to his position in the Government service.

NUMBER 14—Was the case of a woman who had been treated with cruelty by her husband. He came home about four o'clock in the morning, knocked at the door and asked to be admitted. His wife came down and let him in, but complained of his improper conduct, when he struck her on the face, knocked her down, and beat her so badly that she became insensible. He then dragged her by the hair of her head into the yard, at which time the neighbors interfered and prevented him from committing any further violence upon her. After he had done this, he went to an alderman's office, sued her, and had her committed to prison upon the charge of assault and battery,—an offence of which she was not guilty, but, on the contrary, her bruised and battered person bore unmistakable evidence of the terrible assault that he had committed upon her while he was in a state of beastly intoxication. Notwithstanding all this, which was self-evident, she was committed to prison upon the testimony of this drunken husband.

The case was immediately investigated by the Agent, who saw her neighbors, all of whom spoke well of her, and were willing to bear testimony to the inhuman treatment which she received from her husband. When the Agent made known these facts to the alderman, he at once gave an unconditional discharge, without costs, and she was permitted to return to her home and take charge of her children.

NUMBER 15—Was the case of a respectable Jewess, who is a widow having two children, one a boy in Girard College, and the other an interesting little girl. Her opposite neighbor had quarrelled with her, and had broken down her grape-vines and flowers. For this the prisoner had sued her, and had her bound over to appear at court, upon

the charge of *malicious mischief*. As soon as this was done, the party sued her before the same magistrate, upon the charge of assault and threats, an offence of which she was not guilty. As she was poor, and unable to find bail, she was committed to prison. Her little daughter went to the College and informed her brother of their mother's imprisonment. The Superintendent of the College gave him liberty to go and look after the case, provided he would return by ten o'clock in the evening. He came to your Agent, in the prison, accompanied by his little sister, and begged, in tears, for the release of their mother. The Agent took charge of the case, went to the prosecutor, and prevailed upon her to accompany him to the alderman's office, and give consent to the settlement of the case, with the understanding that the prisoner should withdraw the charge that she had brought against the prosecutor. This was agreed to, and both suits were settled to the satisfaction of all concerned. In this manner, through the Agent's interference, the prisoner was released in a few hours after she had been committed.

The children were greatly rejoiced at the liberation of their mother, and the boy had the satisfaction of taking the discharge of his mother to the prison about nine o'clock in the evening, in time to enable him to return to the College by ten o'clock, as he had promised.

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## SEPARATE CONFINEMENT.

The system of separate confinement is that to which the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Condition of Public Prisons, may be considered as having pledged itself; not solitary confinement, not the seclusion of the unfortunate convict from all intercourse with his kind, all sight of the "human face divine; but only "from the ways of men shut out"—from association with his fellow-convicts, and with those whose occasional visitation

would work mischievous effects ; but with a few of the benevolent, the good, the humane, he is to have his cell enlightened, and his seclusion rendered endurable,—*separate* from criminals and other convicts, separate from ordinary intercourse, but not *solitary*. The experience of all who give a careful attention to the subject of prison discipline, and its effects—its permanent effects on the convict—is leading to a general conclusion favorable to the humane and improving system that marks the Penitentiary regulations in this city, and which, in some degree, obtains in the Philadelphia County Prison.

We do not, in this Report, argue the question of Separate Confinement. The principle and its execution have been discussed by an abler pen, in a former number of this Journal. It is now time to await the results of experience, and record the expressions of the convictions to which that experience leads. That is due to ourselves—it is eminently due to the cause of humanity as connected with the subject of prison discipline.

Acting from the influence of closely observing philanthropists, the British Parliament, some years ago, passed an Act providing for the separate imprisonment in jails as well as in “Bridewell.” The Act was largely in advance of public opinion, and of course it never went into full effect. Recent inquiries and Reports show that public opinion needed enlightenment ; and we may suppose that the good work of giving general information is going on, as we see, in the British Reports, constant laudations of the “separate confinement system,” and assertions by governors of prisons, that they are coming to the conclusion that such a system of punishment is

the only one that can give the least hope of improvement. In a former number of this Journal we gave extracts from reports of investigations, which sustain what we have here asserted.

After discussing various questions of prison discipline, and noticing the disturbing causes, and marking the failure of many attempts, the New York Report, from which we have made copious extracts, says :

The question then returns upon us : what is the remedy for the evil of which we complain, and under which the whole community is suffering, and that in many ways ? The answer to the question really depends upon the answer to be given to another : *Is association the seminal evil of our jail system ?* If it is,—and on this point there can be, we think, no difference of opinion,—then the fundamental remedy is the abolishment of association. In other words, it is INDIVIDUAL IMPRISONMENT : the separate confinement, in a cell appropriated exclusively to himself, of each prisoner committed to our common jails.

The Prison Association of New York has not the power to change or modify directly the discipline of any prison in that State ; but it has the ear of the Legislature, and through that Legislature it has access to all the people of the Commonwealth, and hence we may suppose that the utterance of such an opinion as we have copied above, must produce some effect on the public mind. The conclusion to which almost every one must arrive who visits often, and observes attentively, the criminals of prison cells, and the conclusion to which this Committee comes, is that, as a general rule, social imprisonment, confining more than one person in a single cell, is injurious, and precludes almost entirely all hope of moral improvement from imprisonment.

The system of separate confinement, it is believed, (and the belief is sanctioned by close observation, with and intention to form a judgment, and with an opinion somewhat given to an opposite conclusion, by a part of those who here express the belief,) is as necessary to improvement in jails as in penitentiaries; in the incarceration of vagrants and drunkards and the untried, as in the convict. And we suppose no one will doubt that the untried are as much (and why not more?) entitled to sympathy as the convict: that those whom the law considers innocent because not proved guilty, shall be at least as well cared for as those whom the law and its courts have pronounced guilty of felony,—that they shall be placed in positions as comfortable and as likely to insure moral improvement, as the convict.

Yet the untried prisoner is usually placed in a room with numerous others, and exposed to all the evil influences which bad association insures. If not guilty in fact, when arrested, he usually becomes morally guilty, by the time his trial takes place. The stranger, incarcerated for the first time, and unable to procure bail, soon learns the vocabulary of the fraternity of rogues, and, in proportion to the hopelessness of his condition he assimilates to the character and habits of his companions.

Thousands in this very city owe their degraded condition to the destructive influence of the prison cells. The man could have survived the charge of felony or "misdemeanor," but he fell beneath the blow of bad associations. The woman, if alone, might have sustained herself against the consequences of imprudence

or intemperance, but the enticements and debasement of the worst of her own sex were irresistible; and the State penitentiary owes the multitude of the solitary occupants of its cells to the social degradation consequent upon companionship in the apartments of the county prisons.

We cannot, perhaps, better supply our own deficiencies in the argument on the subject of separate confinement, than by adopting, in this chapter, part of a correspondence between the Secretary of "The Board of Charities of Massachusetts," and the "Moral Instructor of the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania." Mr. Ruth speaks from experience—from that kind of experience which teaches. It is not probable that he was selected for his present most useful office from any preconceived opinions favorable to the particular system of confinement that distinguishes the prison-house in which he was called to labor. It was the men, and not the system—it was their improvement in morals, and not the character of their punishment, with which he was to deal; and his fitness for the discharge of the duties of instructing the head and the heart, cultivating the mind and the affections, was alone regarded in his selection; and we are happy to say that the results have justified the opinion upon which his offer of services was accepted. The separate system of confinement, then, has a new defender and advocate, in a gentleman of education, whose habits of observation have had considerable exercise, and whose means of judgment, and whose power of discrimination are admitted by all; and, let it be added, by way of confirmation, that the unfortunate

convicts who have had an experience of social confinement, admit that if they are to be improved in morals, and saved from the repetition or multiplication of their crimes, these ends are only attainable by the means of separate confinement, and faithful, persistent moral suasion.

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BOARD OF STATE CHARITIES, }  
*Secretary's Office, 12 State St., Boston, Sept. 1, 1865. }*

REV. JOHN RUTH,

*Moral Instructor at the Eastern Penitentiary, Phila.;*

MY DEAR SIR :

Since our conversation respecting the convicts under your instruction, when I visited your Penitentiary in June last, I have been desirous of writing to you, to ask you some questions on that most interesting subject, the working of the separate system of confinement. I have waited, however, in order to send you the accompanying work of Miss CARPENTER, which I beg you will accept and read, and then give me your views upon it. The facts and arguments there stated, I think, will command your attention; and I am desirous of knowing how they will impress a gentleman who, like yourself, has had great facilities for studying the separate system of imprisonment.

The questions which I wish to ask you, and which I shall be glad to have you answer at some length, if your convenience will allow, are these :

1. Do you perceive any physical or moral effect resulting from the separate confinement of your convicts, which is peculiar to the first year of their prison life? That is, does their health suffer at all, and if so, does it suffer more or less in the first year? or does the effect upon their minds and hearts seem to be greater, or more beneficial in the first year than afterwards, or is it less felt? In either case, to what would you ascribe the difference?

2. Is there, in your opinion, a limit beyond which it is not safe to go, in prolonging the confinement of men in your prison; and if so, what is that limit? Is it five years, ten, twenty, etc., or is it less than five; and would you think it desirable to change separate confinement into any form of associated labor, after the limit assigned is reached, or should the convict then be discharged, and placed without restraint in society again?

3. Is the classification of convicts *individually*, according to your system, in your opinion indispensable, or might another classification of them be made which would secure to them freedom from contaminating influences, and at the same time bring them more conveniently and naturally under the instruction of their officers? In short, is not your system, with all its modifications, still an inconvenient, and in some respects a hurtful one, considering the best means of promoting the convict's reformation?

4. What do you consider the best remedy for that excessive consideration of his own physical, mental, and spiritual condition, which seems to be inevitable when men are thrown much into solitude? Are not the moral dangers of solitude very great, and can they be considerably diminished by any means except a partial or complete restoration to society? Do not your convicts prey upon themselves, and impede their own reformation by their morbid self-contemplation?

5. To what extent does real reformation follow the discipline of your prison, and how could it be made more common?

6. To what extent could the Irish system be introduced in your prison, and would it be desirable to introduce it?

7. What is your opinion, concisely stated, of the actual working and results of the Philadelphia system?

In answering these questions, my dear Mr. RUTH, I beg you will feel free to wander from them, and to give me information upon any point which may seem to you important; for I have, no doubt, omitted topics which will occur to you, and I am sure that what you deem of interest, will be so to me. I wish to make use of your answers, in



preparing that part of my Annual Report which relates to Prisons; but I will be guided by your wish, in quoting you as authority.

I write to you because of our conversation on these subjects last summer; but I bear in mind also the information afforded and the courtesy extended me by Mr. HOLLOWAY and Mr. OURT, to whom I desire to be remembered.

I received from the latter the Reports which I wished for, and now have a complete set of your Reports, lacking one. I value them highly; and although I do not, perhaps, take the same view of your Prison System that is held by yourself and those connected with it, yet I know how to value zealous labors and important results, such as I certainly witnessed in the Eastern Penitentiary.

With great respect, truly yours,

J. B. SANBORN.

STATE PENITENTIARY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNA. }  
Philadelphia, Penna, October 26th, 1865. }

B. F. SANBORN, Esq.,

*Secretary B. S. Charities, Boston, Mass.;*

DEAR SIR:

Your favor of September 1st, with the accompanying package, was duly received by express, for which please accept my thanks.

The "facts and arguments set forth" in Miss Carpenter's book are of a decidedly practical character, and cannot fail to do much towards advancing the cause of prison science. Nevertheless, if we compare the "British" and "Irish" systems with the Pennsylvania system, I am fully prepared to give my testimony in favor of the latter. The separate system is the only one, in my judgment, in which punishment and moral instruction can be so combined as to make the criminal feel his degradation and earnestly desire a higher and better life. On the congregate system, in any of its phases, the criminal is wont to throw himself and his crimes into the general mass. On the Pennsylvania

system, he is compelled to individualize his crime, while those who have the charge over him have the opportunity to study his character and direct their attention specially to his social and moral improvement. I regret that, for want of time, I shall not be able to answer your questions, except in a very succinct way.

As to the first I would remark : as far as I have been able to observe, the health of our convicts has remained good, as a rule, and, in many cases, broken-down health has been restored ; and this rule holds good, whether the term of 'imprisonment be for a longer or shorter period. As to the beneficial results in a moral respect, much depends upon the early educational and social training of the convict. In many cases, the first year's confinement makes but little impression of a permanent character. This statement is true particularly in regard to illiterate youth. Further, my observation would lead me to say that I do not perceive any physical or moral effects resulting from the separate system which are peculiar to the first year of prison life, that can be construed into an argument in favor of any other system.

As to your second inquiry, I would reply : in my opinion, there is a "limit beyond which it would not be safe to go, in the separate system ;" but where to fix that limit could only be determined by a knowledge of the physical and mental status of the criminal,—to arrive at which would be a very difficult task for a judge with mere finite capacities. It is not unusual with us for a convict to go out, after five or seven years' confinement, in better health, and with better morals, than he possessed when he was locked up. I do not think it at all desirable, at any period of confinement, to resort to associated labor, but, on the contrary, if a convict evinces thorough reformation, it would be better for the "Board of Inspectors" to recommend him to Executive clemency, and that he be fully restored to citizenship.

In reply to your third inquiry, I would give it as my opinion, that while our system is not the most convenient for securing remunerative labor, it is much more humane, and furnishes much better advantages for secular and moral instruction, and consequently greater facilities for reformation, than any other arrangement of which I have any knowledge.

Your fourth question has several members, and in answering it intelligently, I shall have to take them up separately.

First. As to "the best remedy for that excessive consideration of his own physical, mental and spiritual condition which seems to be inevitable when a man is thrown into solitude." I consider suitable employment for working hours, and a good library for leisure, the most available. With a plenty of work, and a good supply of reading matter on hand, a prisoner rarely feels oppressed by his separation from society, after the first month of his incarceration is past.

Secondly. You ask, "Are not the moral dangers of solitude very great," &c.? I grant you they are; but in my judgment, when criminals are associated together, the opportunity for the corruption of morals is greatly increased.

Our system is such, that each cell being a work-shop, and the overseer of each branch of labor coming in contact with the prisoner several times during the day, the Warden, Physician, Librarian, School Teacher and Moral Instructor, the Board of Inspectors and Visiting Committee from the Prison Society, making frequent visits, so diminish the moral dangers of solitude, as to preclude the necessity of association of prisoners, either in part or entire.

Thirdly. You ask, "Do not your prisoners prey upon themselves, and impede their reformation by their morbid self-contemplations?" To answer otherwise than in the affirmative, would be to mislead; but I think you will find, upon inquiry, that the evil to which you allude, exists to a greater or less extent in hospitals, asylums and Penitentiaries where men are congregated together; while you will certainly concede the fact that the separate system furnishes the best means of counselling men upon the surest methods of preserving both health and morals.

In answering your fifth question, "To what extent does real reformation follow the discipline of your prison, and how could it be made more common?" I would remark: We have followed with inquiry our discharged prisoners as fully as our limited facilities would allow, and find that very many of them have become good citizens; but, as most of them become lost in the masses, we can judge more correctly, as we think, from our statistics of commitment, which will show that out of nearly six thousand convictions we have had but about nine and a-half per cent of re-convictions. Our educational facilities add greatly to our chances of success. Even the rudiments of an education, when

received in combination with faithful moral instruction, becomes a sort of indemnity against crime. To make reformatations more common, we have only to apply ourselves faithfully to our work.

In regard to your inquiry with reference to the "Irish system," I do not think it would be at all desirable to introduce it into our prison. For while I do not claim for our system perfection, I think we have the true theory, and all we have to do is to add such improvements as commend themselves, adopting those only which are in keeping with our usage.

In your seventh and last question, you ask my opinion, concisely stated, of the actual working and results of the Philadelphia system. This question is in part answered in the replies which I have made to the preceding inquiries. But to answer a little more fully, I would state as to the financial working and results of our system, I am hardly competent to express an opinion. I do not think, however, they would meet the financial notions of a "Down Easter." I will venture the opinion, however, that our system can be carried out in all its details, and yet be made nearly self-sustaining. In a moral point of view, in my judgment, the actual results of our system most conclusively warrant its continuance, while it strongly commends itself for adoption wherever improvements are to be made or new prisons are to be built. You will see from the above, that I am fully committed to the separate system. This was not the case when I became Moral Instructor to the Philadelphia Penitentiary. For some time after entering upon the duties of my office, I inclined to the idea that association in some form would be better; but having had ample time to examine the practical results and compare them with the working and results of the associated or congregated systems in the adjoining States. I am fully convinced that ours is the best system of which I am able to obtain any intelligent information.

I am glad to find you taking so much interest in prison science, and sincerely hope your labors may be crowned with marked success. The field is a wide one, and calls for the labors of the wisest heads and best hearts in the land. None of our systems are so complete as not to admit of modifications and improvements.

You are at liberty to criticise my views, and make such use of them

as may suit your convenience. I will do all I can towards giving publicity to Miss Carpenter's work, "Our Convicts."

I shall be glad to hear from you at any time, or see you at our prison.

Yours, truly,

JOHN RUTH.

## MOVEMENT OF THE ACTING COMMITTEE AND SOCIETY.

The Acting Committee of the Society has been constant in its efforts to promote, throughout this State, the views and object of the fathers of the association, and they have not been without encouraging returns. Amidst the calls of professional and business engagements, a large number of persons, in several counties, have expressed deep interest in the movement of the Society, and professed themselves anxious to participate in its labors; and two auxilliary societies have been formed, and the highest hopes of their usefulness in the good work are warranted by the character of those who compose them.

Last summer the Society received an invitation from scientific and philanthropic gentlemen, to assist them by a deputation to a Congress to be held at Boston, on the subject of "Social Science." Without meaning to pledge itself to any labors that might not be entirely consistent with its simple plan of action, the Society accepted the invitation, and appointed JEREMIAH WIL-

LETTIS and JOSEPH R. CHANDLER as its representatives to that proposed Congress. Most unfortunately, both of these delegates were, by ill health, prevented from discharging the duties of their mission, though both had made preparation to be present.

The meeting at Boston was held, and papers were read, and questions discussed upon various branches of "Social Science." One action of the meeting at Boston was to recommend the formation of Leagues to promote a more extensive knowledge and insure a larger practice of "Social Science." All that relates to "Social Science" concerns "The Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons;" and hence, in the reports which fill our Journal, chapters are given the consideration of some branches of that subject. In the present number, we have been unusually liberal with our space in that direction. Whether, however, the Society shall burthen its action, and, perhaps, impede its progress in its simple course, with a direct connection with any formally organized attempt to promote "Social Science," is for the decision of its members. It is probable, however, that the invitation to consider and aid the proposition from Massachusetts will arrest the attention and command the services of many members of the Society in some separate and substantive organization. The subject is one that concerns all society, and should command the best interests of the country, that may be used in that direction.

The Acting Committee are happy to state that it has not been called upon to part with any of its members during the year now brought to a close. WILLIAM PAR-

KER FOULKE, formerly an active member, to whose pen the cause of humanity was indebted for an admirable exposition and defence of the system of "separate confinement of prisoners," died some months since, and a recognition of his former services to the Society was made by appropriate resolutions of regret at his death, and sympathy with his family.

It is gratifying to state that while the meetings of the Acting Committee have been usually well attended and questions of interest have been discussed and settled, there has been great harmony among the members, and most gratifying concurrence in all measures for the promotion of the objects of the Society.

For a notice of the labors of the sub-committees, we refer to the heads of County Prison and Eastern Penitentiary, and other parts of this Journal.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

The regular meetings of the Society, as distinguished from those of the Acting Committee, have been well attended, and the business that required the discussion and decision of the body, received attention, which denoted a profitable interest in the members. The quarterly meeting in January was chiefly occupied with the consideration of the Report of the previous year's labors, and the election of officers and committees for the present year.

The quarterly meeting for April occurred about the time that the nation was shocked by the assassination of President Lincoln, and the attempt to take the life of the Secretary of State. An event so astounding and so important, and at a moment when the war which had for four years desolated the South, and almost decimated the North, the East and the West, called from almost every organized body in the loyal States an expression of indignant condemnation of the act, and of sorrow for the loss which the country sustained thereby, both in the death of the honored President and in her fair fame. Even those who had been in arms against the Government, and had made President Lincoln the exponent and representative of the conduct and principles which they were opposing by the most gigantic civil war that has ever furnished events for history, felt the outrage which had been done in the name of their cause, and saw how the blood of a martyred President was to become the fruitful seed for a great harvest of philanthropy and patriotism. Nor was the expression of horror at the outrageous act, and regret at its consequences, confined even to this country. The most powerful nations of Europe, though having no sympathy with our form of government, felt called on to make protest against an act that involved our nation in mourning and them in apprehension. And it was a beautiful sight to see parliaments of monarchical nations pausing in the midst of deliberations on home policy, and the means of extending or defending possessions, to denounce the murderous act that plunged the United States in grief, and to offer expressions of sympathy which had their motives



in high respect for the nation, suffering the loss of its Constitutional Chief, and in a just appreciation of the manly, simple virtues, and the self-sacrificing patriotism of the man who perished by the hands of assassins. In Europe, in South America and wherever the flag and the principles of the United States are known, there was an honorable and a consoling manifestation of regret for the death of a good man, who represented the best qualities of republicanism.

While all around us, in the vicinity, such measures were being taken, and such resolutions adopted as expressed the grief of the people in their individual and their associate conditions, for the loss which the country sustained in the death of their President, it seemed meet that this Society should at once give expression to the feelings of its members on such an important event, and show that it was capable of appreciating the virtues which made the dead President a martyr, and of comprehending the effects of such outrages upon national characters, if they went uncondemned by public sentiment. In this view of the duties of the Society, it was deemed proper, at the quarterly meeting in April, to place upon record an expression of the profound respect for the late President, Abraham Lincoln, and its condemnation of the act by which the country was deprived of his services. Accordingly, a series of resolutions was proposed, and promptly and unanimously adopted; but as the intent to have them published accidentally failed in fulfilment, it is deemed appropriate to place them in the authorized publication of the Society, so that it may be understood that, while the Society eschews all that

partakes of mere party politics, it has, and professes and improves, a right to express a deep interest in what concerns the cause of humanity—an interest augmented by a consideration that the fate of a good man and the interest of the nation are involved in the matter.

The following are the preamble and resolutions, as they were adopted.

*Extract of Minutes "A."*

At a Stated Meeting of "The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," held 4th mo., 26th, 1865, the President announced, in feeling terms, the death of the late President of the United States; whereupon, on motion, the regular proceedings of the Society were suspended.

Joseph R. Chandler offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

Grief for the loss which the Nation and the cause of humanity have sustained in the death of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, and especially from the manner of his death, is so general, that a neglect in any corporate body, and, in particular, in one whose object is Philanthropy, to make official notice of the event, might be construed into indifference, as to the loss of the Nation, and the disgrace of the crime, or inability to appreciate the truly benevolent as well as patriotic character of the distinguished dead. To avoid such an imputation, and to make some expression of existing feelings, it is

*Resolved*, That the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons participate fully in the public grief, at the loss which the Nation sustained in the untimely death of the late President Lincoln, whose unselfish zeal in the cause of humanity made illustrious his administration of the affairs of the country.

*Resolved*, That while the late President of the United States was in no way accountable for the terrible civil war in which the Nation has for more than four years been involved, this Society believes that he

accepted the events which treason forced upon him, and incidentally directed the power with which the war invested him, to make the common evils, which the unhappy events made unavoidable, as supportable to the loyal citizens as the circumstances of the country rendered possible.

*Resolved*, That while the administration of President Lincoln was made eminently glorious by the success which has recently followed the efforts to put down treason and rebellion, his character as a man, and a magistrate, has derived additional lustre from the gentle virtues which distinguished all his public acts, and especially from the beautiful exercise of clemency towards those whose conduct exposed them to severity, and whose defeat placed them at his mercy.

*Resolved*, That without indulging in ourselves, or reproving in others, any feelings of personal or party acrimony, the members of this Society make this simple expression of their respect for the memory of a man who used his exalted position to exercise and illustrate some of the highest of civic virtues, and by them to gain for himself a reverence even higher than the regard which his lofty position might claim; and it is

*Ordered*, That these proceedings be spread at large upon the records of the Society, that those who may come after us may know that we, in appreciating the worth of a good man, and a conscientious and successful officer, feel justly, and denounce earnestly, the outrage upon the Nation, of the atrocious crime which removed that officer from the further discharge of his duties, and the high enjoyment of the evidences of public gratitude for the service which he had performed.

Nor is it a matter of indifference that the clemency of the deceased President found exercise in securing to his enemies and the enemies of his country, an "alleviation of the miseries of public prisons," to which their misfortunes or their crimes had consigned them.

*Resolved*, That while we thus profess our profound sorrow at the death of the President of the United States, and our deep mortification at the national dishonor which the manner of his death inflicted, we rejoice that William H. Seward, the Secretary of State, survives

the assassin's murderous attack; and we cherish the hope that the Nation is again to be benefitted by the services of that distinguished Statesman.

Extracted from the Minutes.

JOHN J. LYTLE,  
EDWIN TOWNSEND,  
*Secretaries.*

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## LEGISLATION.

The efforts to interest the Legislature of this State in the subject of prison discipline and prison order, and to connect the almshouses of the several counties with responsibility to the State government, were not entirely successful. The Governor of the State did all that was incumbent on him as a public functionary and a philanthropist, and it does not appear that the failure of the Legislature to pass the bill, which a proper committee reported, was owing to any unwillingness, on the part of that body, to do justice to the subject presented to them. There are questions pressed by personal interests, and from considerations of public good, that will generally take precedence of movements that involve no interests that have been under general discussion. Much of the legislation of the General Assembly of this State, and the law-making bodies of other Commonwealths, is supplementary to some previous Act, and is required to give efficiency, or correct the errors of former doings. In addition to the ordinary duties of the Legislature of Pennsylvania last year, the state of the nation was

occupying public thought, and demanding peculiar legislation. It was not the nation alone that had to provide ways and means for carrying on the war,—every loyal State was straining its credit to the utmost tension, and every Legislature seemed to sit awaiting what new means must be adopted to second the efforts of the General Government. And though time enough might have been found to pass the bill to which we allude, and many others that did not reach a final reading, yet we understand well, that the occupation of the legislative mind by the national emergencies, might prevent that consideration of the important subject to which we refer, which is necessary in satisfactory legislation; might, indeed, so divert the attention of both houses as to prevent any consideration. The matter was considered by the joint committee of the Senate and House, to whom was referred the letter from this Society to His Excellency the Governor, and that consideration resulted in a report, which, for the sake of maintaining a history of the efforts of the Society, and to give the progress of the measure, we subjoin.

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## REPORT

*Upon the Condition of the Prisons and Almshouses of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as made by a Joint Committee of the Legislature appointed for that purpose. Read March 13, 1865.*

Mr. Guernsey, from the committee to whom was referred that portion of the Governor's message which relates to the penitentiaries and prisons, and also to the almshouses in the State, made report, viz :

That they have given to the subject that careful consideration to which it is entitled, on account both of true policy and of sound philanthropy. And without referring directly to other facts than those set forth in the document which accompanied the Governor's message, they will offer some of the reasons why improvements should be made in the administration of both the penal and the pauper laws of the Commonwealth; reasons upon which are founded the bill which accompanies this report, and which it is hoped will induce legislation that shall correct existing evils, and ensure a constant improvement in all that concerns the construction and management of the prisons and the almshouses in the State.

Among the many branches of philanthropy which have distinguished Pennsylvania, is that which relates to prisons; and it is no exaggeration to say that our Commonwealth is proudly distinguished in the Union, and most highly esteemed throughout Christendom, in consequence of the construction of her two penitentiaries, and by the discipline and general administration, and the peculiar system of dealing with the convicts that occupy the cells of those institutions. These things work benefit in the right direction, and they attract attention, and almost invariably excite applause from abroad. Within the walls of these two prison-houses was tried the great experiment of separate imprisonment; and the question whether the house of punishment could be made the school for cultivating the affections, and awakening the public offender to a sense of his own erroneous position as a man, and inducing in him the resolution to avoid in future the errors of his past life, has been settled in the affirmative, to the lasting benefit of the repentant criminal and the unfailing honor of the Commonwealth. It is not supposed that the administration of the two penitentiaries of the State has attained perfection. The every excellence of the plan upon which they are constructed, and the success that attends the execution of those plans, cannot fail to suggest improvement. Those who conduct them will find, from the excellence of their own work, a necessity for alteration to give the institutions the advantage of all the benefits which result from careful administration. Almost every institution that is permanently good, is progressive in its benefits and improvable in its administration. And it may be regarded as a cause of general congratulation, that excellent as is the administration of the

Eastern and Western Penitentiaries of Pennsylvania, that excellence is progressive. The experience of inspectors will be in future, as it has hitherto been, used to improve what devotion and appropriate knowledge so well direct. But it is to be regretted that the fame for prison discipline, for reformatory imprisonment, which Pennsylvania has acquired by the erection of her penitentiaries, and the system upon which they are conducted, is not sustained by the county jails throughout the Commonwealth; and a close inquiry, while justifying the high credit of the State for philanthropic penal legislation, in generous and successful execution of those laws in the penitentiaries, excites a blush for the failure of system and execution in most of the county prisons, where, if not the greatest criminals are to be found, by far the most numerous offenders are incarcerated.

The fame which Pennsylvania enjoys abroad for prison discipline, is not sustained by a close inspection at home. All christendom refers with respect to the system of "separate confinement," to the careful, wholesome discipline, to the means of moral and literary instruction, with the absence of all temptation to error, to the provision for acquiring the means of honest support, and the care for the out-going prisoner, which distinguish the Pennsylvania penitentiaries. Great Britain and Ireland are adopting this system, and these meliorating and benevolent means of good in their public prisons, and trying to adapt the structure of their jails to the Pennsylvania plan; doing homage thus to the earlier efforts in the right direction, of our own Commonwealth. But while others are admiring and imitating in the administration of the common prisons, these admirable characteristics of our penitentiary system, Pennsylvania herself seems to pause in her work of improvement, and to be content with the claim of making the punishment of the excessively guilty, a means of their moral and physical improvement, while the new or smaller offender may be allowed to perfect himself in depravity and crime, and advance by degrees in culpability, through the county prisons, unentitled to moral discipline, or that instruction which would make virtue profitable as well as pleasant, till he shall have so often outraged the laws of the State, and exhausted the forbearance of the Courts, as to earn a sentence to the State penitentiary, as if the Commonwealth had regarded the county jails as seminaries to prepare offenders for the State prisons.

The letter from the Philadelphia Society for alleviating the miseries of public prisons, which accompanied the annual message of the Governor, sets forth the deficiencies of some of the county prisons in our State; not as drawing attention to the individual prison in which the deficiency or abuse existed, (a politic sense of delicacy would, of course, teach forbearance in that direction,) but presenting evils which rumor had mentioned, and which careful, personal inspection of all the prisons in the State, fully confirmed.

Inappropriate form, vicious construction, bad internal arrangements, total or partial deficiency in accommodations, which decency imperatively demands, and good morals suggest, want of cleanliness, deficiency in food, entire want of moral instruction, absence of useful employment and want of means to occupy time by practical education. No provision for making the prisoner better in confinement, none for assisting him to try to do well, when he shall leave the prison; in short, no recognition of the house of improvement, none of the dignity of human nature, or of the duty to redeem an offender from his vassalage to vice, and start him in a new career of hopeful amendment. As elsewhere these evils are avoided, and those benefits fully contemplated, and largely secured, it cannot be doubted that, with equal means of doing good, the State of Pennsylvania can, at least, equal all that is done elsewhere. It would seem to be her mission to *give*, not to *follow*, example, and to secure to her county prisons the just credit which has been awarded to her penitentiaries. What are the means by which these ends are to be attained? In the first place, there is need of a system by which the affairs of the county prisons shall be administered. It is, of course, not expected that the system shall be adopted without any small exceptions (in the execution) suggested by the peculiar circumstances of locations; but it must be general, and be subject to one set of laws and the same class of officials. Where there is a prison, there ought to be a supervisory power, that shall not only hear reports of proceedings, but shall see, and, in some cases, direct proceedings. And it is believed that the system of inspectors appointed by the courts has worked so well, wherever it has been introduced, that entire reliance may be placed upon that mode of supervision, where the appointments are judiciously made and the terms of service properly arranged, and especially where the appointee is one distinguished for



his just appreciation of the object of prison discipline, and his proper estimate of its value to society, as well as to individual reformation and punishment. It is represented as an error in the existing provisions for the administration of county prisons, that they are in the hands of the sheriff. There is certainly no reason why a citizen nominated for, and elected to, the office of high sheriff of a county, should not be competent to the duties of a jailor; but so, also, there is certainly nothing in the duties proper to the sheriff of a county, which may not be performed without the qualifications proper for a prison-keeper. And it seems almost certain, that the discharge of the true duties of a sheriff may require time, at least, that ought to be devoted to the care of the prison, and the interest of the county in the expenses of the prison, and the interests of humanity in the character and condition of the prisoner. It is probable that some of the evils of our county prisons are due to mal-administration of the sheriff as a jailor, while the other interests of the county have been greatly benefitted by his knowledge and efficient service in the duties proper to his office. Another class of qualifications is often required from the jailor, than those which ought to distinguish a sheriff, and, it may be added, very different claims for office are usually put forth by the candidates for the sheriffalty of a county, from those that are deemed desirable in the man who is to be a jail keeper. It may, undoubtedly, be said, that the higher degree of talents and education of the sheriff are not incompatible with a discharge of the humbler duties of the jailor. That is true; but, unfortunately, those high talents and that education are not willingly devoted to the lower duties of the prison; and so the sheriff may overshadow the prison-keeper in his own person, and the duties of the latter be made to give place to the former, till nothing but detention comes from imprisonment, and discipline and care for the improvement and comfort of the convicts, be made to yield to the dignity of the elected sheriff. Nor is this all. Nothing more promotes the benefit of the prisoner, and the object of imprisonment, than the care and attention of the experienced superintendent and the maintenance of regular, well-established discipline. All suffer, when frequent changes in the administration of the prison are made; and unfortunately for the affairs of the prison, the law which places them in the hands of the sheriff forbids him to administer them for

more than three years in any six. Should the affairs of the prison be retained in the hands of the sheriff, it will be seen that some constantly supervisory power is necessary to the maintenance of a system. There may not be an interregnum, but it is not probable that the incoming sheriff will have the qualifications which his predecessor has acquired by experience; so that some experience seems necessary to sustain the interests and maintain the order of the prison, till the new jailor shall have acquired some knowledge of his official duties.

The system of inspectors seems, on all accounts, to be desirable; and among the arrangements, in the interior of the State, for their terms, should be that the term of one-third of the board should expire each year. In the small counties, three inspectors might be sufficient; in the larger, six would be required, and in some it might be better to have the board composed of nine. A board of inspectors, composed of men who are qualified by some experience, but especially with a deep, heart felt interest in the cause of humanity—men who can distinguish between the unrelenting severity of the law, and the mild but steady administration of its penalties—between the mawkish sensibilities of a false philanthropy, and the true exercise of humanity—men who admit that the violator of the law must suffer the penalties which that law, properly administered, allows, but who, at the same time, seek to make the prescribed punishment subservient to the moral advantage of the prisoner.

The time seems to have passed when punishment alone is regarded as the object of imprisonment. Much was done when the sufferings of the convict were alleviated by the mitigation of a portion of the penalties awarded, and the arrangements of the cells and the character of the treatment were changed. But a new step in the progress of prison discipline has been successfully taken. The spirit of true humanity has followed up the work of improvement; and while sound legislation has deprived the prison cell of the means and attributes of cruelty, true philanthropy has found the means to convert the prison into a school of reform, and to convert the execution of the penal laws of the State into the means of elevating the prisoner into the condition of good citizenship, by gentle suasion and constant kindness; so that, without a diminution of any portion of the prescribed penalty, he shall feel that such a chastisement has been necessary to the change

which sound morality required, and shall learn the deep lesson of repentance, in the hope that it will be available to the restoration of his lost condition. It is not the object of this report to set forth, by citation of instances, the great benefit which has resulted from an improvement in some of the prisons of the State. Those instances are numerous and most gratifying, and they are most numerous and striking where the system has been most improved by the adoption of appropriate plans of discipline, the employment of appropriate officers, and especially by the services of devoted agents and the voluntary labors of good men and women, who find in the physical order of the prisons, a means and opportunity to insure moral instruction, and thus promote the benefit of the convicts, and through their improvement to ensure good to society. It is the improvement in the administration of these few prisons, the establishment of order therein, and strict accountability, and generally the success which has attended the attempt to improve the prisons and their prisoners, that are now cited as furnishing motives to extend the system, to include all the county prisons in the State, taking advantage of what, in some instances, has been the result of individual or social effort, and eminently augmenting their benefit, by applying the system to all.

The system, or rather the want of system, that prevails in this State, in the construction of prisons, and in the administration of their affairs, leaves each so much isolated that little or no benefit is derived to one for any improvement in another. Accident sometimes causes the adoption of some change, but little is heard of its success; and when, for three-quarters of a century, in one part of the Commonwealth, philanthropic citizens have been illustrating the improvable character of prison discipline, and especially of the sentenced prisoner, a large part of our State remains unaffected by the local movement, because there is no established mode of making one county acquainted with the movement of another, so that it may profit by successful experiment. We see that there is a deficiency.

The appointment of inspectors, able and willing to perform all that the law may require and humanity suggest, will not produce the effect that is desirable, will not insure to the whole the benefits which may accrue to a particular prison. One may become a nursery of virtue, where the convicted felon may slowly and steadily become a good man,

while another may remain the receptacle of the criminal and vicious, where new felonies may be planned, new schemes of vice concocted, and the young offender be hardened in criminal intentions, and the whole company become confederates for some future aggression on society.

The Legislature may, as it has done already, require from the officer of each prison an annual statement of the affairs of the place, with ordinary statistics, of numbers received and discharged, with the cost of maintaining the institution; and this requisition may be even more fully complied with than it has hitherto been. But these naked statements of numbers, give no idea of the benefits that has accrued to society by the detention of a certain number of persons, beyond the mere fact that so many, for such a period, have been kept away from actual mischief to others, though they may have been concocting schemes of future crime, which shall exceed other felonies in character and extent, because more will be concerned in their execution, and time and opportunity and experience have been afforded to digest the plans, so that success and impunity may be secured.

These statements, also, may omit the important items of efforts made to improve the moral condition of the prison, or still worse, may omit the important fact, that no such efforts have been made, that human beings, reared for citizens among freemen, and qualified by mental and physical abilities to be useful to themselves and others, have been allowed to be neglected in the cells of a prison, with no word of sympathy to awaken human feeling, and no gentle remonstrance to arouse resolution, and no evidence of aid to awaken hope. This is not an imaginary case. The report of gentlemen who visited, last year, nearly every prison in Pennsylvania, shows that there are jails into which no missionary of morals ever enters, where the convict is left to himself and his ignorance, or even worse, to his own misdirected education, sinking in his own estimation, and shrinking more and more from contact with the good; whose only calculation, indeed, is to live, and to live by fraud, and whose only hope is to escape a punishment which he does not mean shall come without deservings. The very crimes which send some to the prison, are committed under the penal roof; and if the committees are guilty, as of course they are, in thus violating a divine and humane law, scarcely less culpable are those who,

by arrangement or neglect of arrangement, afforded the temptation and supply the means for the offence.

The reports of the officer of a prison, however correct in what is set forth, are nevertheless the statements which an officer makes of his own doings; whether they are full or not, it is impossible for the Legislature, without other means of information, to judge. But even if complete, they are only complete with regard to the primary object of his appointment, the detention of offenders for punishment. They give no just account of the moral state of the prison, of the character of the treatment, and of the errors which the keeper may have committed, in the discharge of his duties. And, while the miserable convict may tell the keeper, and his own friends, of his gratitude for any favors conferred upon him, in the forbearance of extreme justice, no one will hear the complaints of the injured, or be invoked to redress the wrongs. If the unfortunate have few friends, the guilty can scarcely be supposed to be better furnished with those who will advocate their cause. And even the guilty have their rights, and the community has rights in the guilty. It is the interest of society that the guilty should be reclaimed, as much as it is the interest of society that the guilty should be imprisoned. And it is in the interest of social life, as well as in that of humanity, that the imprisonment should be so conducted as to lead the prisoners to repentance, and that this repentance be to encourage and to insure thorough reformation.

If these benefits are desirable, and all will admit that they are, then the question is, are they attainable?

The experience of those who are intimate with prison discipline, and with the moral dealing with prisoners, in certain prisons in this State, and in some other States of the Union, shows that an immense amount of positive good has been done by a concurrence of action between prison authorities and the friends of humanity, who voluntarily visit the prisoners in their cells. Evils, such as it has already been stated, are known to exist in various county jails in Pennsylvania, have been almost entirely removed, in those to which we refer, and without a single relaxation of sentence awarded by the court, and allowed by the law, there has been such an alleviation of the miseries of prisoners, both physically and morally, as justified the belief that these meliorating

means may be introduced into every prison in the Commonwealth, and that every new application of them will tend to strengthen the effort, and promote the success of those who labor in that direction.

Uniformity in the plan and execution is needed, and it has already been stated, that the appointment of inspectors for each prison, important as that step will be, to effect improvement in the prison over which they are to preside, will have little effect upon a general system. What is needed, in the opinion of the committee, is an officer of the Commonwealth, whose business it shall be to visit once, at least, in each year, every county prison in the State, and the two penitentiaries, to mark their working, to confer with their respective superintendents, and the board of inspectors, to make himself acquainted with the workings of each, to note the deficiencies, and from time to time to report upon the condition of all, especially once a year, to confer with the superintendent and inspectors upon any deficiencies, and to recommend the adoption of any improvement which may be made in any other prison; and thus to give to each the benefit of the experience of all, and to ensure a harmony of exertion in the great work of personal restraint and moral improvement. On this point, the committee feel it a duty to be explicit.

It seems scarcely possible to establish such a system of prison arrangement, of prison discipline, and prison instruction, in a State so extensive as Pennsylvania, and maintain a full operation without concert of action, and that concert and harmony is not to be expected, without that direct personal supervision which alone can be performed by an individual, that has at heart the improvement of prisons for the sake of the prisoners, and the improvement of prisoners for the sake of humanity.

With this view, a bill herewith reported, provided for the appointment of a State Commissioner of Prisons, whose time shall be devoted to the personal examination of every prison in the State, not merely with a view to report upon what he has seen, but, in an especial manner, to confer with the inspectors and superintendents of the prisons, so that he may make general the benefits which each has received, and correct, without public exposure or complaint, the errors which, in the administration of the affairs of any prison, may hinder its usefulness.

The system of public schools seems to demand, everywhere, a super-

vision by one person capable of judging of the wants and the progress of every school. And prisons, eminently useful in another direction from schools, require that supervision which augments and perpetuates their usefulness. The commissioners of the public schools shall be charged with duties, if not analogous, at least equal in importance to those of the inspector-general of the army. The legislation now asked in favor of the prisons, provides means to call for and justify future legislation, as the commissioner, for whose appointment authority is asked, will soon make known what are the errors of administration in any prison, and how those errors may be corrected. The faults of structure, arrangement and discipline, which, in another part of this report, are mentioned as existing in many counties of this State, absolutely preclude all hope of moral improvement of the prisoner, wherever such errors are found; and it is known that they greatly abound in a very large portion of the Commonwealth. And yet Pennsylvania stands conspicuous for her humane legislation. Her credit, then, must be regarded as factitious, because it is no evidence of humanity to alleviate some of the physical inconveniences of imprisonment, and yet leave the prisoner neither a chance of, or an invitation to, moral improvement. If the convict excuses his fault, at least to himself, by saying, that under existing circumstances he could do no better, how is his case mended by being allowed to improve his taste and his appetite, from good treatment, without receiving instruction to make him judge of the evil of gratifying that taste and appetite at the expense of other persons' means?

Careful inquiries into the mode of supporting the poor, in almost every county in the State, an inquiry made by the same persons that investigated the condition of the county prisons, and at the same time show a shameful deficiency in many counties, and suggest such legislation as will secure, to the poor, the care and attention in sickness, age and want, which they have a right to demand by the common law of humanity, a right which is perfect, as it has a correlative duty. The culprit must be punished, and the jail is provided for his reception and detention, and he may expect, because he is a human being and capable of improvement, that he will be treated with humanity; and he may hope that he will, also, be so cared for as to make him better. These are duties, but he has no right to enforce their discharge, or to

censure any one for the non-fulfillment of them. But the citizen struck down by reverses, by sickness, by age, and left too poor to sustain himself, has a right to demand support, and it is the duty of the community to see that his rights are respected. As a tax-payer, as a man, as a member of the Commonwealth, he has earned, or he has inherited, the right to live and to demand, from the community in which he lives, the means to make that living comfortable. And it seems to be the duty of those who make the laws of the State, so to make them that those the least able to help themselves, or appeal from oppression or neglect, shall be protected in their remaining right, and secured from the personal evils against which the social compact was formed and is maintained.

That all these rights have not been respected for the dependent poor of our State, the inquiries to which we refer abundantly prove. That the neglect or refusal, on the part of local authorities, is attributable to improper motives, is not to be asserted. The knowledge that poverty is too often the consequence of error and vice, prevents in the many a growth of sympathy for paupers. And when some provision is made for the maintenance of that class, there is manifested much neglect of improvement in the administration of the pauper laws, so that the discomfort of the almshouse, or the greater discomfort of the poor whose maintenance is provided for by public competition, among those who would make money by under-feeding the poor, has become proverbial.

But in connection with the maintenance of the poor, it is of consequence to consider the effect of the lax administration of the laws upon the *poor insane*; nay, it may be profitable, also, to examine whether this is not a deficiency in the laws themselves, and, if so, a fault in the legislation. There are parts of the State in which provision is made for the proper treatment of the mentally deranged. The almshouse is made a hospital for such; and skill, directed by kindness, is doing much in behalf of the mental sufferer. But in other portions, the insane sufferer is treated by those among whom he has lived, as a moral leper, whose presence is not to be tolerated, whose infirmities and aberration deprive him of right and sympathy. Indeed, the insane, of some parts of our State, fare worse than did the leper among the Israelites. With them, though he was removed from his own home,



the laws of the land, which were the laws of God, provided for him a place of retreat, where he could recover from his malady, or dying, would at least have the care to which afflicted humanity is entitled.

But it is declared, that in certain parts of this Commonwealth, the claims of the pauper insane, as human beings, are so neglected, that the sufferers are thrust forth even from the common abode of the pauper, and confined in a position where the inconveniences of the place, and the jeers and insults of the curious and unfeeling, irritate the miserable object into incurable madness. These things are unbecoming the fame of Pennsylvania, and while the cause of those who are compelled to suffer without intelligible complaint, appeals to the Legislature for redress, legislation to meet all the evils of which complaint is made, must, to be effectual, be exceedingly minute. It is sometimes easier to correct a local fault of administration, by presenting its contrast with a different course elsewhere, than to force correction by law of penalties. It is not believed that intentional wrong is at the bottom of the evils noted; neglect, a want of knowledge of what is right, and of what may, and ought to be done, must be regarded as the cause of the wrong. Thence the committee conclude, that the officer charged with the inspection of the public prisons, might also be instructed to investigate into the administration of almshouses, and the care of the paupers of all classes, in the counties or townships that make provision for the maintenance of their poor, and report upon the means and success of their undertaking.

While one great object is contemplated in the proposed appointment of a Commissioner of Prisons and Almshouses for the State, viz: that of affording information, upon which future legislation may be based, as well also as a proper manifestation of solicitude for the welfare of every class of people, the amendment, as well as punishment of the guilty, and the comfort of the destitute poor, and the helpless afflicted, it is believed that the discharge of duties, prescribed for such an office, will tend directly to such legislation as will correct existing faults.

It is not supposable that men appointed to the care of prisons, or the direction of almshouses, intend to do wrong; they do not know what improvements have been made in other similar institutions. They need only the hint, which a well-informed commissioner can give; only a suggestion that they are behind the age in the care of the criminal and

unfortunate, and that what others do so well, they may undertake with confidence of success

In this connection, it may be proper to state, that among the services which this State Commissioner for Prisons and Almshouses could render, would be to assist in the selection of sites for the buildings, where a plentiful supply of water could be readily had, and where drainage would be easy and efficient. These are most important considerations in the great subject of hygeian, which ought to be regarded in all selections of localities and plans for buildings for the poor and the prisoner. And, it may be added, that the selecting of a site for an almshouse ought to include ample extent of ground, so as to admit of extending the building.

On the subject of the insane department, whether poor or criminal, (if an insane man can be criminal,) it will probably be found expedient for the State to provide some home for both of those classes. The particular measure which the committee herewith proposes, is one that commends itself to those who legislate for a people distinguished by the spirit of philanthropy, and zealous of good works. It is a complement of the good laws by which the penitentiary system of this State has been made the example of prison discipline abroad. And as applied to the administration of the almshouse, it is the care of those whom the highest consideration of humanity commend to society for the free exercise of that charity, which "droppeth as the gentle rain from Heaven, it bleaseth him that gives, and him that takes."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN W. GUERNSEY,  
WM. HASLETT,  
A. D. MARKLEY,  
JOS. F. THOMAS,  
W. W. BARR,

*Committee of the House.*

T. J. BIGHAM,  
WM. WORTHINGTON,  
WM. M'SHERRY,

*Committee of the Senate.*

The Legislature is now in session, and we hope that, in the multitude of business which will be pressed upon each branch, time and will may be found to consider well the plan of securing to Pennsylvania a fullness of returns of the various public pauper and penal institutions for which provision is made by law. To such reports alone can we look with any hope for the correction of existing evils : evils that abound, as will be seen by the report of Messrs. WILLETTTS and RANDOLPH, the Visiting Agents of the Society. In New York, the Legislature grants what we ask, excepting, indeed, that which relates to the almshouses. In Massachusetts the whole work of penal and pauper, or, rather, of charitable institutions, is in the hands of men capable of detecting and correcting errors in the principles and administration of affairs.

In France the whole work of public prisons connects itself with charity even to infants ; and the Imperial government knows as well the exact condition of every penitentiary, jail, house of correction, refuge and foundling hospital, as it does the situation, number, character and description of every regiment of its army and every ship of its navy. We may not approve of all the modes of administering penal discipline in France, but we cannot fail to approve the interest which the Nation takes in the welfare of the prisoner and the condition of his prison.

In Great Britain, every prison and jail makes its report, annually, of *all* that relates to its affairs, its numbers, the character, age, condition, and antecedents of its prisoners ; the mode of discipline, the amount and

kind of labor, the amount and kind of food, the character and cost of all these, and that of the clothing and religious and moral instruction, with the results. These are attested by competent judges; and the government frequently makes special examinations of all by committees from both Houses of Parliament. The highest dignitary of the land not thinking it derogatory to his place to see that justice is administered with mercy, and that the improvement of the bad is connected with their punishment.

The reports from the jails in Ireland are among the most satisfactory that we see. They denote a system of prisons that is admirable in its administration, and is shown to be capable of constant improvement. This improvement is, undoubtedly, in some measure, effected by these very reports. These make known the success and advancement of the affairs of one jail to the directors of another; they establish what has been done, and thus afford a means for planning what is to be done. Year by year, wherever the report of the public prisons are annually and carefully and fully made, there it is seen that the administration of prison affairs is annually improved, and the condition of the prisoners greatly ameliorated, and their physical and moral improvement more generally secured.

We think it right to refer again especially to the reports of which we have made an analysis in another part of this Journal, and to repeat that the idea which it was intended to realize in this Commonwealth, by the action of the Society last year, is fully illustrated in the volume of French reports, and those of Great Britain

and Ireland, and New York, before us; and we by no means despair of inducing the Legislature of this State to make provision for such a general inspection of the State and County Prisons, and the various other institutions intended to receive and improve the erring, especially the young.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

The correspondence of the Acting Committee has been of the usual character, relative to the business of the Society, but not generally of interest sufficient to be published.

A few months since, the Acting Committee appointed two of its members to obtain, by letters, information relative to the jails and almshouses of the interior, and Messrs. JEREMIAH WILLETTS and PHILIP S. RANDOLPH were selected for that duty, the appointment being the more appropriate as they were the members chosen to visit the prisons and almshouses in 1864, from whose valuable report was derived the letter to the Governor of the Commonwealth, upon which was founded some legislative action, and which appeared in the Appendix of the last year's Report.

Immediately after the appointment of the Committee, the members addressed letters to gentlemen with whom

they had, in the discharge of their mission last year, been in communication.

Before giving any of the answers received by the Committee from their correspondents, we think it best to place on the pages of this Report the series of questions relative to prisons and almshouses, which were transmitted; and we do this now as they will constitute the basis of much of the correspondence to be carried on, and may be referred to at any time, in the Journal, when the single sheet upon which they are printed has been mislaid.

It is proper to state that our ability to carry on this part of our undertaking must depend much upon the fidelity with which the answers to these questions are transmitted. Of course it is not intended to limit correspondence to naked replies to these queries. Whatever relates to the erection, maintenance, and administration of prisons and almshouses, is to be regarded as germane to their correspondence.

*Interrogatories to be propounded to the Inspectors, Sheriffs, and others interested with the management of the Prisons of the State of Pennsylvania.*

1. When was the Prison of                      County erected ?
2. Is the building adapted to the congregate or separate system ?
3. Under what officers is the Prison conducted, and how are they compensated ?
4. How many prisoners will it accommodate ?

5. Are the sexes completely separated?
6. Are the prisoners allowed to associate at night?
7. How are the convicts employed?
8. Is any employment given to untried prisoners?
9. Are the prisoners who can read furnished with books?
10. Are those who are ignorant taught to read and write?
11. Are they taught trades?
12. Are they afforded religious instruction?
13. What is the dietary of the Prison, breakfast, dinner and supper?
14. Are any of the officers of the Prison interested in any contract for supplying the prisoners with food, raiment or any other necessaries?
15. What clothing and bedding are furnished to the prisoners?
16. What are the Hygienic arrangements of this Prison?
17. What is the number of prisoners now in this Jail? State their color, sex, age, &c., and crimes for which they have been convicted, and the average term of imprisonment in this Prison?
18. What has been the average number for the last four years?  
What is the number of insane persons now in Jail? State the sex, color, age, and whether they are recent cases.
19. Are any special arrangements made for treating insane prisoners?
20. What has been the average number of insane in this Prison for the last four years?
21. What has been the average cost of each prisoner during the last four years, and what the whole annual expense of supporting this Prison for the years abovementioned?
21. What are the punishments inflicted on prisoners to prevent their escaping, or to preserve the discipline of the Prison?

*Questions to be propounded to the Managers, Overseers, Stewards, and others charged with the management of the Poor-Houses of the Commonwealth.*

1. When were the buildings erected?
2. How many persons will they accommodate?
3. How is the Institution managed? State particularly, and how the officers are chosen.
4. What salaries are paid?
5. Has the Steward or Superintendent any pecuniary interest in the labor of the inmates, or in furnishing any supplies for the establishment?
6. What is the dietary of the inmates, breakfast, dinner and supper? State what clothing and bedding are allowed to the inmates; what trades or employments are carried on in the institution.
7. What number of insane inmates is now in this institution; what number of cases are recent, and what number are chronic cases?
8. Are there any special arrangements adopted for the treatment of the insane?
9. What was the average number in this institution in the last four years? State their sex, color, age.
10. What are the prominent causes of Pauperism in your county?
11. What are the Hygienic arrangements of this establishment?
11. What has been the cost of this establishment for the last four years?

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BERKS COUNTY.

*Answers to Questions touching the Poor-House.*

I.—The poor of Berks county were formerly managed by overseers of each township, where their support was farmed out to the lowest bidder. This was found to be a system that bore with equal severity



upon the tax-payer and the pauper, increasing the rates of the one, decreasing the comfort of the other. The court was incessantly engaged upon questions of settlement and support between the townships. A pauper became a kind of legal foot-ball, who was kicked about from one lowest bidder to another, from one township to another, from one county to another, from one court to another, in a surprising manner: he bore a *caput lupinum*, every man's heart was shut against him. This state of things continued until about the year 1823-24, when, under authority of an Act of the Legislature, the county was authorized to buy land and erect a poor-house.

I should have stated, that by the Act of 22d March, 1813, all charges and expenses, whatever, incurred by the township on account of the poor, were payable out of the county stock. This legislation, removing the local overseers from responsibility to the local tax-payers, led to extravagance, and, perhaps, occasional dishonesty on their part. At all events, the poor rates became so heavy as to become a leading inducement to the legislation of 1823-4.

The land selected for the poor-house was a farm of the late Governor Miffin, situated three miles westwardly from the centre of Reading, in Curwen township. It was bought for about forty dollars an acre, and, with what has been added to it by subsequent purchases, now constitutes a farm of over 550 acres, of which about 450 acres are under cultivation. The main building was erected in 1824, to which additions have been made from time to time, and other buildings put up in 1837 and 1858. These buildings are of brick, with spacious halls, numerous rooms of four, six, eight and more beds, well lighted, well heated, and well ventilated.

II.—These buildings will easily accommodate four hundred persons.

III.—The Institution is managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of three members, one of whom is chosen annually for three years, by the qualified electors of the county. These directors meet once a month, at the Poor-House, to examine it and its affairs, hear complaints, pass upon claims, apprentice children, and perform other like duties. They receive a merely nominal compensation, not enough to pay for their horse-hire. The officers of the Poor-House are elected annually by this board.

IV.—The officers consist of

A Steward—Mr. Conrad, who has held the place for thirteen years. Salary of him and his wife, jointly, eight hundred and fifty dollars.

Under Steward—Mr. Rightmyer, who has held the place seven years. Salary five hundred dollars.

Clerk—Mr. Henry A. Summons, who has held the place four years. Salary four hundred and fifty dollars.

Matron—Mrs. Sarah Conrad.

Under Matron—Mrs. Mary Rightmyer.

School-master—John Pyle.

All of the above-named are resident in the Poor-House, and receive boarding, lodging, fuel, light and washing, besides salary.

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| A. A. McDONOUGH, M. D.,  | } Physicians not resident. |
| JAMES Y. SHEARER, M. D., |                            |

Salary one hundred dollars a year, each. They visit the House on two stated days in each week, and upon any emergency on which their services may be required.

Wharton Morris, Esq., Solicitor. Salary seventy-five dollars.

V.—The Steward has no pecuniary interest in the labor of the inmates, or in furnishing any supplies for the Poor-House. Mr. Conrad manages the farm and the house, and it is due to him to say that his management of each challenges the most unqualified admiration. The farm is a model one, and so is the Poor-House.

VI.—There is no prescribed dietary for each day. Every one receives a daily ration of sound, wholesome meat, (generally fattened on the farm,) and they who work have meat served to them three times every day.

Coffee is given twice a day; occasionally, chocolate or tea, instead of coffee. The bread is of the very best "which," as one of the officers expressed himself to me, "*is also found to be the cheapest.*" The meats are beef and pork, fresh and pickled, sausage, puddings; and the vegetables, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, onions, &c. The cooking apparatus is of very perfect construction, and the cooking that is done by it is well and cleanly done by those having it in charge.

The clothing furnished by the Poor-House is, when it can be got, of home-made cloth; sometimes ready-made clothes are bought; this cloth

is worked up by the inmates, under the direction of a tailor and tailoress. The poor of Berks county are decently and comfortably clad

The bedding is clean and warm. It may well be doubted whether in these respects of food, clothing, bedding, indeed, of whatever constitutes mere physical comfort, nine-tenths of these people were ever so well off in their lives.

No trades or employments are carried on in the House; a great deal of sewing is done by the women for the inmates, and all of the housework, save what is performed by the cook and the baker. Much farm and garden work is done by the men.

VII.—*The number of insane inmates is about one hundred, of whom very few are recent cases. Not more than two or three are recent cases. Mr. Conrad says that, in his time (thirteen years), not more than a dozen cases have been discharged cured. These hundred cases, then, are the accumulation of many years, and I believe, were, for the most part, not brought into the House until, from neglect, they had become incurable.*

VIII.—There are no especial arrangements adopted for the treatment of the insane. There is a building appropriated exclusively to females in that condition. But, as regards the males, to use the words of one of the officers, "*they are all mixed up together, with various people who are sane, except those who have to be chained.*" The condition of these unfortunates is certainly a great reproach to us. Their number is so large that it would seem to require a separate asylum, devoted exclusively to the treatment of such cases. They are entirely out of place in a Poor House. It is thought that the number of the insane in Pennsylvania is about one in 685 of the population—at least that was the deduction from the Census of 1850. If that be the ratio of the Census of 1860, this county would have about 136 insane. Of these we have, say, one hundred in the Poor House. I know of several in various asylums, and of several who are under no restraint: this induces me to believe that we have more than 136 such persons in our population. But the number is too small to warrant the erection of a distinct asylum for their proper custody and treatment. Under such circumstances, it might be profitable to group counties together for the erection and support at their joint expense, pro-rata, of a proper asylum for their insane and idiotic; the grouping might proceed upon commu-

nity of origin and facility of inter-communication. Take, for example, the counties of Northampton, Lehigh, Lebanon, Dauphin and Berks : in these the population is of German origin, and one railroad cuts through them all, from the Delaware to the Susquehanna. *Now this group of counties, applying to its present population, 265,000, the ratio obtained from the Census of 1850, would furnish three hundred and eighty-six cases And if its Poor-Houses are filled, as is that of Berks, the institution would open with 280 patients.* Such an asylum could be made to receive insane prisoners, which at least one establishment in this State refuses to do. Some place of this kind is believed to be perfectly practicable, and this plan, for the present, is offered to the consideration of the philanthropic. The Directors of the Poor of Berks county, to whom it was offered to-day, expressed themselves very favorably with regard to it.

IX.—The average number in the Berks county Poor-House, in the years 1860, 1861, 1862 and 1863, was about four hundred. This figure is not given as the result of any calculation made upon the spot, but as the belief of the clerk, a very intelligent and communicative gentleman. He has promised to consult the books of the House, and give me the results of his examination in answer to this and the twelfth interrogatory.

Meanwhile, fearing lest that report may come too late for your purposes, I will answer it from such means as are within my reach, for one of the years specified in the interrogatory.

There were remaining in the Poor-House, 1st January

|                                               |       |     |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|-----|
| 1862, . . . . .                               | 403   |     |
| Admitted during the year 1862, . . . . .      | 215   |     |
| Born in the House during that year, . . . . . | 7     |     |
|                                               | <hr/> | 625 |
| Discharged during that year, . . . . .        | 221   |     |
| Indentured " " . . . . .                      | 6     |     |
| Died " " . . . . .                            | 27    |     |
| Remaining on 1st January, 1863, . . . . .     | 381   |     |
|                                               | <hr/> | 625 |

|                                                          |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Of these so remaining, there were male adults, . . . . . | 191       |
| Female adults, . . . . .                                 | 110       |
| Boys, under 15 years of age, . . . . .                   | 63        |
| Girls, " " " . . . . .                                   | 17        |
|                                                          | <hr/> 381 |

By "adults," the authorities at the Poor-House seem to understand, "persons over fifteen years of age."

X.—Drunkenness and unthrift are considered the prominent causes of pauperism in Berks county. Of each of these, acting singly, drunkenness brings far the greater number to the Poor-House. Very many, however, who have neither been drunkards nor unthrift, overtaken by old age, or by sickness, are compelled to take refuge in the charity of the public.

XI.—It is not easy to answer this interrogatory. The House enjoys an abundant supply of delicious water and of pure air; it is dry, well ventilated, well warmed, well built; its arrangements for cooking and washing are as good as they can be; the attendants are warm-hearted, generous and faithful people, who are not stinted by any mean-niggardly economy in doing their whole duty; the food is as good as the country affords; the physicians are skillful and attentive. The wards are not large, which is thought to be an advantage. The people are very much as if they were in a comfortable home, and seem to be as happy and cheerful as they could in their hearts desire to be, in their condition of poverty. The mortality is not large, which would seem to show that the Hygienic arrangements, whatever they may be, work well.

XII.—Above what has been raised upon the farm, and the work and labor of the poor on the farm and in the house, there have been drawn from the county treasury the following sums, in the years specified, for the support of the establishment and the relief of the poor:

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| In 1860, . . . . . | \$22,836 72 |
| 1861, . . . . .    | 26,456 98   |
| 1862, . . . . .    | 19,127 10   |
| 1863, . . . . .    | 19,082 18   |

In the year 1862, which I take as a common year, the produce of the farm was 124 loads of hay; 1807 bushels of wheat; 342 bushels of rye; 1692 bushels of oats; 2200 bushels of corn; 2200 bushels of potatoes—indeed, all the vegetables required for the kitchen; 15,000 pounds of beef; hides and tallow; pork, lard, milk, butter, and many other things.

The cash House expenditures of the Steward were \$1,816 00.

His receipts \$2,199 00.

The farm, which averaged about fifty dollars an acre at its purchase, to-day would readily bring from one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred dollars, under the hammer.

In a memorial, which she addressed to the Legislature some eighteen years ago, Miss Dix characterized the Poor-House of Berks county as being the best managed institution of the kind in the State. Under the management of such Directors as Messrs. Lash, Griesemer, and Getz, it will never cease to merit such high praise.

J. PRINGLE JONES.

*Reading, December, 1865.*

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*Answers to Interrogatories respecting the Management of  
the Berks County Prison.*

1. In 1848. Opened January 1, 1849.
2. The separate system.
3. A warden, assistant warden, and matron. They are compensated by salaries. The officers are appointed annually, by a board of seven inspectors. The warden and matron to be confirmed by the Court.
4. It will accommodate forty separately. There is also a vagrant department, consisting of two rooms, which will accommodate about twenty.
5. They are.
6. They are not.

7. Mostly at weaving checks and carpets.
8. They are frequently employed.
9. They are, but the assortment is but poorly adapted for their comprehension and wants. Their educational needs are, and have, not been sufficiently attended to in many instances.
10. A number have been in past years; cannot say what care is now bestowed.
11. A few learn weaving.
12. Very little religious instruction is given. There is, occasionally, preaching, yet rarely for the last few years. There are, however, Bibles in all the cells, which are much read by some prisoners, but personal aid in moral and religious subjects is much neglected.
13. For breakfast, bread and coffee; for dinner, meat, potatoes, and soup, the latter thickened with rice, beans, cabbage, &c. For supper, bread and coffee. A pint of molasses is allowed weekly.
14. They are not. The warden finds the provision, and is allowed a definite sum daily for the support of each prisoner.
15. Their apparel is made of cotton and woollen goods, which is manufactured and made up by prisoners. They have straw beds, sheets, and coverings of quilts and blankets.
16. Ventilation has been defective, and warmth insufficient, but, during the fall, efforts have been made for improvements in these respects. There are but poor conveniences for out-door exercise, the cell yards for this purpose having recently been removed.
17. Number of prisoners thirty-seven; all white, and all males except two. Ages, under twenty, ten; between twenty and thirty, thirteen; between thirty and forty, six; between forty and fifty, eight. Of the thirty-seven, twenty are under conviction, for the following offences, viz: larceny, twelve; assault and battery with intent to kill, five; false pretense, one; seduction, one, and homicide 1. The average term of imprisonment of nineteen, not including the homicide, eleven and a-half months.
18. Average number for 1860, forty-nine; for 1861, thirty-four; for 1862, twenty-five; for 1863, twenty-three. There are always a number of prisoners from Berks County serving their

terms of imprisonment in the Eastern State Penitentiary. These are generally for aggravated offences. January 1st, 1865, there were fourteen.

19. During the year, there were four insane, all males, and one colored. Their ages—one about twenty-five, two between thirty and forty, and one above fifty years. Only one a recent case.
20. No special arrangements are made.
21. Not certain what number, probably about three.
22. The average cost allowed the warden for the years designated, for maintenance of prisoners, eighteen cents per day. The annual expense, including the repairs of prison, was, for 1860, \$4,610; for 1861, \$3,705; for 1862, \$3,413; and for 1863, \$2,989.
23. They are commonly put on a diet of bread and water.

HENRY TYSON, M. D.,

*Warden of Berks County Prison from April 1, 1853, to April 1, 1865.*

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EBENSBURG, CAMBRIA Co., P. A., }  
December 1st, 1865. }

I regret very much that I am not able to make such a report as I could desire, and such as might be regarded by the Society as valuable. I may, however, give one or two facts, in relation to our county jail, which will explain, and speak for, themselves.

The county jail is a brick building, situate in the town, and adjoining the court house. It is the residence of the sheriffs, as circumstances may dictate. The arrangement and construction for jail purposes are not only imperfect, *but disgraceful*. There are only two rooms down stairs, where, occasionally, all classes and all characters, and all grades of offenders, are confined. Up stairs there are six cells, opposite each other. Each cell is about four feet by ten, with an iron gate, made of iron bars, to prevent escape. I have seen two criminals, often, in one of these cells. No beds, other than some dirty, worthless straw mats, thrown on the boards. No windows, or place to admit air or light, but through the gate. There is one stove, in [winter time, located in



an area between, or at equal distance from, the cells. Such is our jail.

While the humanity of the sheriff and his family may, very often, prompt valuable and timely comforts to the inmates, yet it cannot be denied that much suffering and cruelty is experienced, by the unfortunate victims of crime, in county jails. With a jail like ours, it is impossible for the sheriff, or jailor, who may have the charge of such a building for the time being, to relieve the wants and provide for the poor comforts that ought to be afforded to the unfortunate victims of vice. There are no persons, save the Grand Jury's visit every three months, to inspect the condition of county jails and poor houses, on which occasions the steward of the poor house and keeper of the jail, too frequently anticipating the visit, have some little show of care and order of the place committed to their care. It too frequently happens that our County Commissioners, who have a *quasi* protection over county property, as well as the members composing the Grand Jury, are entirely unfit to make an examination, or capable or willing to suggest any improvement, and only too frequently make a report complimentary of the persons for the time being having the management of such establishments.

The poor house is situate about one mile from this, the county seat, a very fine, large brick building, constructed somewhat on the plan of large country hotels; rooms on either side of common entries running through the building. The basement story set apart for the insane. There are at present about eleven in number of insane, and about from forty-five to fifty, as an average throughout the year, of inmates, including all classes; less in summer than in winter; intemperance the most prevailing cause; many from old age.

The late rebellion, or war, is beginning to develop its fruits, as well on morals, as loss of life and consequent destitution among families.

The greatest defect in the poor house is the difficulty of heating the different cells or rooms. To furnish rooms with stoves, in many instances would not only be imprudent, but extremely dangerous to the safety of the whole building. If the county would adopt a furnace, by which all the cells and rooms in the house could be heated and made comfortable, there would be comparatively no risk or danger from fire.

If the law now providing for the election of Poor-House Directors was abolished, and the appointment of competent Directors given to

the Courts, or the Governor of the State, or any other power that would disregard all political considerations in their behalf—to appoint the very best men in the county, who would be willing to give two or three days every month to the inspection, care and direction of affairs, and who would appoint a steward who alone for his fitness would be placed there.

If the poor houses and jails were visited by a competent committee of three men, appointed, and not elected, who would have authority to recommend, direct and enforce such government as in their judgment the requirements of the inmates called for, having in view the means and condition of the county financially.

Grand Juries and Poor-House Directors will never remedy the evils apparent and glaring to a common observer.

Respectfully yours.

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SUNBURY *December 2th, 1865.*

DEAR SIR :—The pressure of my own engagements and the absence of some of the officials, to whom the interrogatories were addressed, are the reasons for delaying to answer your letter.

There have been no changes, since his visit, in either the County Prison or Poor-House arrangements.

The Prison is adapted to the congregate system, under the charge of the Sheriff, whose house adjoins it. It contains six large rooms, which are rarely locked, so that the prisoners are generally allowed to associate at all times; they are, however, sometimes locked at night.

They have no employment; and except the supply of newspapers, magazines, and books which I furnish them,—and which, of course, is very limited,—they have no reading matter. Nor have they any regular instruction, religious or other. I hope to be able to make some change for the better in this respect; but they remain for so short a time, and my visits are necessarily so rare, that the instruction would hardly be of much amount—better than nothing, perhaps.

They are furnished with “good common food,” by the Sheriff, who is paid by the day for each prisoner. Clothing is furnished, if needed,

which is rarely. Their beds are "clean and good," but the rooms have no ventilation. The outside door of the common hall is open in good weather.

There are now in the jail seven prisoners, six men and one woman : one man colored. One man is waiting a second trial, being under sentence of death for murder. He has been in more than a year. One man has been in a few weeks sentenced to six months imprisonment for keeping a bad house. The negro is sentenced. One man is probably insane ; but as, if he is sent to Harrisburg, to the asylum, it will be an expense to the township where he was arrested for burglary ; they will probably let him off—i. e., withdraw the charge. One young man is in on a charge of seduction ; the remaining prisoners for larceny and petty charges.

There can be no average term given ; some are retained only a few days ; some six months, and some much longer .

The average has been about four during the past few years.

There is one man apparently insane, now in jail, as I said. A woman was also confined some months ago, suspected of being a rebel spy or incendiary ; but, when the township parties discovered her insanity, they procured her discharge, apparently for the reason given above—expense of sending her to Harrisburg—and she disappeared.

The cost of the Prison, for the past year, has been about \$459, estimating the prisoners' board at thirty cents per day ; (this was the estimate of the Deputy Sheriff, in the absence of the Sheriff.)

Hobbing and close confinement are the only punishments to prevent escapes, &c., and they have proved ineffectual. Twice, within a year, prisoners have escaped by digging through the jail-yard wall. On the last occasion the principal part of the work was done by confederates outside, who entered through the opening picked the lock of the outside door, and of every cell, and took with them *three* of the prisoners, leaving four who refused to go. There are some half-dozen patches on the stone wall of the jail, marking places of escape at different times.

In fact, the whole jail arrangement is wretched, and the only hope is that the march of improvement will sweep the present old shell away and give us something in keeping with the new Court-house. The Sheriff cannot be blamed, of course ; he does as well as he can.

The Poor House system is worse still. Overseers of the Poor are

elected at the town elections, who either hire the poor *kept*, hire houses and furnish food, or give them an allowance; they allow about \$2 50 per person, and rent; and the cost, during 1864, was about \$1200. For 1865 it will be, probably, \$1300 or \$1400.

The Overseer, with whom I talked, agreed with me that the system was most wretched and expensive and altogether wrong, but did not know who should take the first steps toward the purchase of a farm, or making some other arrangement that would save the town some portion of this expense and certainly benefit the poor. I understand that Coal township and Franklin have a poor-house and farm of their own. I do not know of any other in the county.

The only provision for the insane, I have partially described already: to confine them in the jail or elsewhere, until they can be sent to Harrisburg, or else to let them run at large, which last seems the more popular course, unless they are positively dangerous.

I have given away most of the documents you sent me. It would be well if you would send some of them to the Sheriff, Overseer, and to the County Commissioners, directed to Sunbury. The Overseers of the Poor of the town are Messrs. Rohrbach and Augustus Clement.

Very truly,

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BROOKVILLE, JEFFERSON Co., PENNA.

December 9th, 1865. }

I will, as near as I can, answer the questions of your letter *seriatim*.

*First.*—There has been no change in the prison system of this county since the summer of 1864.

Questions *Second and Third*—"How has it worked! What has been the effect upon the moral and physical welfare of the prisoners?" and "If the effect is injurious what remedy do you propose?" These questions are difficult for me to answer. Our county is small, and the prisoners so few, not averaging above five per annum, and these generally only remaining but a very short time, so that it is hard to tell, from results, whether the system has been injurious or otherwise.

With regard to other points upon which particular information is desired, I answer:—*The sexes are completely separated.* Insane per-

sons are sometimes confined in the county jail; there is in this county no other place for them. Irons are never used upon untried prisoners, the prison being sufficiently secure. There is no provision made for instruction of any kind, neither secular nor moral. There has been no increase in the average number of prisoners during the last few months.

The greater part of the time there is not a single prisoner in our county jail-

Accompanying the letter I received was a list of "Interrogatories to be propounded to the Inspectors, Sheriffs, and others interested with the management of the Prisons of the State of Pennsylvania." That list I return to you, answered by the Sheriff of this county.

With regard to arrangements for the poor, each township or borough provides for its own, usually letting them out to the lowest bidder. We have no poor-house in our county. This, I believe, answers all the questions in regard to our county prison, poor system, &c.

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HONESDALE, *November 24th, 1865.*

DEAR SIR:—The number of paupers in our Poor House is not increased since last year. The general business prosperity of the county has tended to diminish pauperage, by increasing the pecuniary competency of the friends of individuals otherwise liable to become chargeable to the poor rates.

There has been a slight increase in the number of prisoners in the county jail. The war, notwithstanding the civic advantages resulting from it, seems to have weakened, at least temporarily, the restraints both of law and morality.

Very truly your friend,

---

ERIE, *November 20th, 1865.*

Though brought in frequent communication with the officers of the Poor establishment, I have not been in the house since I was with you there.

The management is as it was then. I have no doubt but that all is done, that can be done, with the present buildings and facilities, to make the institution comfortable. The buildings are, however, radically defective; the defects can only be remedied by new buildings. That, no doubt, will be attended to soon. The institution owns one hundred acres of land, every acre of which may easily be made a garden. We want new buildings, suitable for the business, with all the improvements of the age.

I do not know that the number of our poor has increased very greatly.

As to our Jail, I can only say that it could not be worse, if those who designed it had had in view only inconvenience, and how a prison could be built with no ventilation, and to furnish the greatest amount of malaria and prison disease.

It cannot be mended, only by a new prison, on a radically different plan. That will be attended to within a few years.

By that time, with the aid of your Society, I hope we will be able to design and erect a proper building.

Crime, since the close of the war, has been greatly on the increase in this county. I suppose, however, not more so than in other localities. It is not easy to say what is the cause of this increase. Perhaps that cause is in human nature, or, rather, in vicious or defective education. We do not give sufficient prominence to a moral education. We are taught that religion is a something so essentially different from moral. It may be, for any experience I have ever had; but I feel confident that, until we construct a religious education upon a moral basis, we shall have the rich harvests of crime that every now and then afflicts us.

Yours respectfully,

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. COWDENPORT, POTTER CO., PENNA.,        }  
December 16, 1865. }

It will give me pleasure to aid you in your noble efforts.

There is no poor-house in this county, and but one or two paupers supported by township poor rates.

The inmates of our jail are *not* increasing, for the reason that there are no licenses granted in this county for the sale of intoxicating drinks, and have not been for twelve years past. There is but one person in our jail now, and it is empty at least half the time.

Judging from what has taken place in this county, I am decided in the opinion that your Society only touches the mere twigs of the evil by efforts to relieve the miseries of prisoners.

That the true way to accomplish your object is to strike at the cause which sends men and women to prison. Labor to prevent the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, is the best way to relieve the sufferings of prisoners, for it will prevent people from becoming the inmates of prisons.

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*Stroudsburg, December 9, 1866.*

We have no poor house in this county, the poor are supported by taxation, and taken care of by individuals in the different townships where they belong. The jail is pretty well attended to by its keeper, considerable attention is paid to the health and comfort of the prisoners. There appears to be an increased number of its inmates the past year, brought on in a great measure from the war that has been carried on to put down the great rebellion. Any assistance I can render in obtaining legislative action in correcting abuses and evils, which are practised in many districts throughout the State, will be cheerfully done by me.

I remain yours.

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*Clearfield, Pa., November 24, 1865.*

In reply to this letter I have to say, that there is no change since Mr. Randolph's visit. We have no county poor house, and the jail is used for the purpose of detaining those who are arrested for crime until they give bail or are tried, and as a place of imprisonment in punishment of small offences, or where the sentence is for a short time. It is seldom full, and often empty; seldom has female prisoners, and in such case they occupy apartments to themselves. It is not

very secure, and prisoners often escape. It is very seldom that irons are put on the prisoners, and those instances are only where the prisoner is charged with a high offence and serious efforts are made by him to escape.

Under the circumstances, I do not see that much improvement can be made until they build a new jail.

Yours, truly.

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LETTER FROM MISS DIX.

There are few great practical charities which have not derived some benefit from the labors, the experience and the hints of Miss Dix. We subjoin a note from that lady in answer to one from the corresponding committee.

*Boston, December 18, 1865.*

I am in receipt of your two letters of several dates, 11th and 12th, and find it difficult to offer practical suggestions concerning the reform of common jails and work-houses, when so much has to be *wholly* rejected of what is familiar and established. It is one thing to devise and adopt sound plans and principles, and quite another to establish them in the minds of those whose money must supply means, and whose capabilities are to be exercised in administering affairs and executing minor laws and regulations. Very few of our jail buildings or work-houses are constructed on such plans as will assure the application of good moral or physical influences. I have observed also that it is not in penal institutions so much the *system*, as the *genius* of the keeper or superintendent, which has wrought out success.

But to return to the primary proposition of your letter *construction*, I would *certainly* in all jails assure *separate* confinement for unconvicted prisoners; then, according to circumstances, class and associate them in the workshops or in out-door labor. Prisoners and all evil-doers should be made to *understand* and know the meaning of laws and to measure penalties,—and further, that on wilful transgression a *sure* punishment would inevitably follow. Most men commit crime indulging the idea of escape from the just inflictions of a *legal consequence* of



law-breaking; certainty of punishment would arrest many a weak or base man on the threshold of misdoing.

I would in construction of prisons not only secure primary separation, but be especially careful to assure *perfect* drainings of buildings and grounds—a very ample supply of pure water, thorough ventilation, (by the *fan*, if not otherwise attainable, moving the same by *steam* or *hand*,) and as far as possible *regular* and *adequate* employment. There should be near a bathing reservoir,—a wash-house where the prisoners while required to perform bodily cleanliness, should also be obliged to keep their clothing clean. The *food* should be *wholesome*, and just sufficient for the unemployed, but more hearty for all workers. Suitable books should be furnished as a means of healthful, moral and religious influence and general improvement.

I cannot refer you to works illustrating prison discipline not already at your command; nor can I hope to offer any original ideas. If I can do any good through personal endeavors, in advancing the very important objects proposed by yourself and your associates in the great work before you, please feel at liberty to command me.

Respectfully,

D. L. DIX.

What you say of *soldiers* as recent offenders would pain me more if I thought *these* were men of *previously* good habits, either of life or of industry. Will you please, if not too much trouble, procure for me answers to questions on the seventh page.

How many soldiers deserted in Philadelphia during September, October, November and December, were Americans?

How many have married since?

How many had any *home* before the war?

How many any stated or regular employment or trade?

How long did *they* serve during the war?

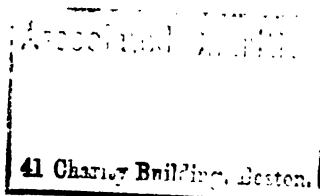
How many were temperate before they enlisted?

How many were resident in any city?

How many belonged in rural districts?

I think your numbers *not* large when the *class* which *bounty* men and *substitutes* are considered.

The *war* has not made *good men bad*, so far as any knowledge extends, but it has not made many bad men *good*.



## DIVERS SUBJECTS.

There are various subjects to which, in the Report to the Society, special, and in some cases, extensive references have been made; these are no less important now than they were previously. But there is little change in the situation of these subjects, to call for additional remarks or explanation, beyond such a reference to them as will show that they occupy the attention of the Society.

No direct movement towards the erection of a House of Correction has yet been warranted by the appropriation of the requisite sum of money by the City Councils. The fiscal condition of the city is assigned as a reason for this neglect. We stop not now to inquire into the sufficiency of the reason, nor to say that public money would have been more usefully employed in the erection of such an establishment as we now refer to, than in some other uses to which it has been put. Nor do we now deem it necessary to offer an argument in favor of a House of Correction; that question is at rest so far as the necessity is concerned.

The question of a change in the Police Courts is one that, in some measure, belongs to the Constitution of the Commonwealth. The election of the judiciary, at least of Justices of the Peace, and Aldermen, has not produced the improvement that was promised as an inducement to make the change; nor does experience show that a

recurrence to the old system of appointment would make things better. With some exceptions, the aldermen of the city are equal to their position, and do as well as others, who complain, would be likely to do if they had to maintain themselves and families out of the fees of such an office. The aldermen have a legal right to their fees; and it is not strange that they should be as ready to secure their own rights as to enforce the rights of others. They are, sometimes apparently harsh, but when costs and fines on one hand, and imprisonment on the other, are presented in the drunkard, or the violator of the public peace, and the offender displays a well-filled purse, yet declares himself resolved to go to prison rather than pay the fine, it does not seem either unnatural or unjust that the magistrate should allow the accused the benefit of his own selection, and then let him remain where he chooses to go. Of course there are instances of unnecessary severity, apparently to obtain money; but admitting much of that, it is evident that not only would the occasion of insult to the magistrate, and the oppression of the prisoner be removed; but justice herself would escape the suspicion which the profits of office excite, should the Legislature of the State, or the Councils of the City, place some able men in the magistracy with a liberal salary, and permit no single dollar of the avails of the office to go into the pockets of the office holder.

The attempts to increase the number of auxiliary societies are obtaining more success, and it is probable that in a few years, all that may be advisable will be formed. Regular communication with corresponding mem-

bers, until such societies shall be formed in some parts of the State, will serve all the purposes of intercourse.

The State Agency, referred to last year, was eminently successful, and the benefits proposed by its temporary establishment must, for the present, be waited for, in the action of the Legislature of the State.

On the subject of Pardons, we are happy to state the opinion expressed in our Journal last year have met with general approval, both as regards the disavowal of intention by the Society of interfering with the sentence of individual prisoners, and as regards the general views expressed on the danger of hasty pardons after partial service. There is no occasion to repeat the sentiment of the last year's paper. It is now only to be remarked that those views remain unchanged.

## PART SECOND.

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### DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN REPORTS.

The "Acting Committee," aware of the interest felt in the movements of foreign nations, and in neighboring Commonwealths, in the punishment and improvement of prisoners, availed themselves of opportunities to acquire copies of Reports on these subjects, in various States, and to import from France, and Great Britain and Ireland, official statements with regard to prisons. It is a subject of regret that they have no statements with regard to the prisons of Italy, Austria, Belgium, Germany generally, nor of any of the northern kingdoms of Europe. It is not known, indeed, how many of those kingdoms require reports from the administrators of prison laws; nor have we any Reports from any of the South American States; and what is more—none from any other States in this Union, than those noticed in the subjoined abstracts. It is hoped that many of those States and Kingdoms that have not taken interest enough in their prisons to require an official report of the administration of the penal laws, will soon see the humanity and policy of adopting the measure, and those

that have caused such reports to be made, will add to the good work, by having their reports also published and circulated.

The Committee have Reports, partial or complete, from only five States of this Union, and it has imported from Europe all that were to be obtained, at present, from that side of the Atlantic.

Among the most interesting reports of prisons that have reached the Society, are those from France. They are well arranged, and minute in description, and denote care, on the part of the Imperial Government, of all that concerns penal policy. The whole subject of jails, prisons and penitentiaries, belongs to the "Minister of the Interior," who appoints a person to have a particular watch over the whole of the administration of penal affairs, and to make an annual report to him of the statistics and condition of every penal house and of all the prisoners in each establishment.

The Reports now before us extend from 1856 to 1862 inclusive, and with the exception of a history of the penal houses, and of the progress of prison discipline in the Empire, they are all that could be desired. Certainly, as exponents of the number and character of prisons, the manner and success of their management, the number, sex, condition and crime, punishment, health, improvement and employment of prisoners, these reports seem to be almost the *beau ideal* of prison exposition.

The plan which, nearly two years since, the Philadelphia Prison Society suggested to the Governor of the Commonwealth, and which was by the latter referred

to the Legislature, seems to be completely carried out in France; and every year an officer, specially designated for that purpose, makes report to the Minister of the Interior, of all that concerns the penal institutions, private or public, of the Empire, and some of its contiguous colonies; so that the exact state of every prison house is made public, and the full development of all the proceedings, from the House of Refuge to the Penitentiary, is presented.

It may be asked, "If such a result is reached in France, why may we not have a similar exposition in the United States?"

The answer is plain. The United States Government has no system of prisons. The national courts, except in the District of Columbia and in the Territories, send their convicts to State institutions. Nor can the plan be adopted by the States, in any concert, as in some of them there is no settled plan, and in no two is there any attempt to assimilate prison discipline. So that we may not look to our National Government for any such Reports as we have received from Great Britain, or as are now noticed for France. But there is no reason in the world why each State should not cause a report upon its own prisons to be made; and if any of them (as certainly some of them are) should be deficient in system or in execution, the exposition itself would be the means of suggesting and securing the improvement desired. A knowledge of the real character and extent of the evil is what is necessary to secure efficient exertions towards a remedy. Massachusetts is approaching order, at least, in her prisons, and something like per-

fection in the plans of Reports. And some other States, moved as Massachusetts has been, by the efforts of benevolent individuals working in organized associations, are approaching the great subject. And Pennsylvania, famed for the excellence of her leading principal penitentiaries, and the efficiency of some of her county prisons and houses of refuge, has been urged to adopt the system which is so admirably carried out in France; and she owes it to her own character, and to justice and mercy, to establish some rule by which the operation of every house of detention, from the house of refuge to the two penitentiaries, may be brought into a concert of action, so that the relations of each one with all, and the operations of each and all, shall be made more efficient by concatenation, and the public generally be made, at least be enabled, to appreciate the results of the penal system of the State, and its effects upon the prisoners, and through them upon society. We must refer to this application of the French plan to the Pennsylvania wants; and in the mean time we shall notice more particularly what is reported of the prisons and prisoners of France.

We repeat then what we have before noticed, viz: that there is a complete *rapport* between all the penal institutions of France. They are all related, though one be an institution for moral and literary instruction of boys and girls that have been disorderly or disobedient, and the other be the receptacle for the offenders against the laws of the severest protracted penalties, where the chain and the ball are the constant obstructions of the convict's movements. And the report is as definite as to each "pupil" of the "house of detention"



for children, as it is in regard to every solitary occupant of the darkest dungeon of some of their yet unimproved prisons. The prisons of France, including those in Algeria, and especially the large national institutions on the Island of Corsica, are all connected; each by its grade is connected with the other and to know the rank of the prison, and its rank is indicated by its title, is to understand the character of the offence that is being expiated therein, and the kind of discipline, moral and physical, in which that expiation is performed or suffered.

Of course much of these long and minute reports relate to subjects that are primarily interesting to the inspectors and superintendents or wardens of prisons, as treating of the number of condemned of their convicts, discipline, instruction and reward; and such is the minuteness of the positive and comparative statements, that we do not see how any one connected with the direction of a prison can fail to be instructed by the statement, if he can find time and means to possess himself of their contents.

But those who are interested in the alleviation of the miseries of public prisons, find in these reports that which must assist them in their plan of benevolence—benevolence which is to be operative not only to the comfort of the individual prisoner, but to the well-being of all the incarcerated, and through them to the benefit of society.

Of the character of the inquests and of their intended effect, the Minister of the Interior of France, thus speaks to the Emperor in 1852:

“This inquest is connected with the administration

of common justice by detentive and repressive detention, with all our public, religious and educational institutions, by the moral reform and the elementary education of the old convict and the youthful prisoner, with agriculture and commerce by the agriculture *colonies*, (the class of prisoners condemned to field labor) and the extensive penitentiary labor, with the general security, by a watchfulness over both the prisoner and the liberated, and finally with the interests of the public treasury by the costs and the products of the whole penal institutions."

There is a fulness in the above extract which commends itself to the attention of the people of the United States, and especially to the citizens and the legislators of Pennsylvania, who certainly cannot be less concerned in the efficacy, success and costs of public prisons than are those of France.

The costs of the whole of the prison system, prisons of every character and name, including the cost of education and the transfer of prisoners from one department to another, was in 1856, 17,651,998 francs; and the cost was gradually reduced, so that in 1860 it was 14,447,118 francs. And while that diminution of costs was going on, eleven (11) new prisons and agricultural penal establishments were added to the former list. The cost of transportation, however, was reduced from eighty-four to twenty-five francs a head by the substitution of the railroad carriages for the ordinary vans on the common road.

It is difficult to form a correct idea of the character of the penal treatment in France simply by reading the reports, as terms derive consequence from local and

special use, personal observation is therefore necessary to a full understanding of certain parts of the statement which we are now examining. Yet, on examination, the arrangements of Courts are not greatly different from those in some of our States. There are three grades of Criminal Courts. The first answering to that of our Mayor, or Alderman or Justice of the Peace, and this officer or court is called the Tribunal of Police—the Police Court or magistrate office of this State.

Second. *The Tribunal Correctional*. This is composed of magistrates that hold the first Court.

Thirdly. *The Cour d'Assizes*. Our Court of Quarter Sessions. In this Court there is a jury. There is no appeal from *this* Court. There are also Courts of Appeal.

The prisons of the Empire are graded from the smallest house of detention to the receptacle of the worst class of offenders; from the house of the child detained for disobedience, to the prison of the old man condemned to hard labor for life.

These prisons are all visited by different officers at stated periods, generally once a month, and the president Judge of the Court of Assizes visits the prison of his district before the opening of each session of the Court, and many officers are bound to visit the prisons frequently. In addition to all these, there is a board of prison inspectors for each prison, with two "Inspectors General." Among all these different visitors it would seem that the cause of humanity might be served, but it may be feared that the official visitations have more

reference to the punishment than to the improvement of the prisoner.

We see in the report very little of the doings and sufferings of a class of prisoners that crowd the cells in this country, viz: drunkards, only few such persons comparatively are arrested in France. When seen in the street (very rarely indeed) they are treated rather as unfortunates than criminals, and are helped home for nursing, rather than to the police station for punishment. Times will probably change, and with them the manners of the people and the character of treatment. Bad brandy is sold in Paris, and in many other cities of France, and if the natives are yet unaccustomed to the hospitality that destroys the stomach and turns the head of guests, or to the habit of visiting rum shops for personal gratification, it is probable that the number of foreigners that crowd Paris in certain seasons of the year and bring with them their customs of hard drinking will, before long, place drunkenness in the list of acts that call for "*afflictive*" punishment. Already one may see in certain windows of shops round the corners in Paris, notice that sherry cobbleries, mint juleps and other American drinks may be had within—and once in a while is detected the person of a Frenchman mingling in the crowd that is imbibing these nectars of *our own* country, and preparing himself for the police forum.

It has already been stated that there is a connection, by law, between all the penal establishments of France, whether public or private, and we become interested in those which are intended for children, answering, in

some places, to our House of Refuge, and others to our Homes for Children, and occasionally partaking of the character of a simple asylum.

The number of establishments in France, public and private, destined to the *correctional* education of children is about fifty-six, of which nine are public and forty-eight private: thirty-two for boys and twenty-five for girls. Some of these are connected with the prisons, and others are really what we should call, in this country, farm-schools.

Most of the private establishments, twenty-five in number, for girls, are conducted by the inmates of religious houses. Of course, in most of these, the Catholic religion is taught and its form of worship practised. But at Strasbourg there is a *prison* called the Institute for Catholic and Protestant Servants. And, while on this point, we may as well add that, in the reports which we have been examining, it is stated that a certain large penitentiary has been located, with a special view to the fact that, in that city and its vicinity, there are many Protestants and Jews whose services in behalf of the morals of the unfortunate inmates may be readily rendered to those of their own profession, and the returns show that these services have been profitably rendered. In these institutions the inmates are secured in the benefit of an education, professional or agricultural, and they are transferred, from one house to another, as the educational means of the houses may warrant.

In looking over the classification of these children prisoners, according to place of birth, ages, &c., we are struck with one category. In 1860, one-fourth of all

these were illegitimate, and one-half were orphans, with only father or mother (half orphans); one-tenth were without both father and mother. But it is noteworthy that, while a vast number of *abandoned* children in France, and especially in Paris, Marseilles, Lyons, and other large cities of the Empire, are received, almost from their birth, into foundling asylums, and are raised till of age to put out, yet the number of children who have been reared in these asylums, and subsequently found their way into the penal-house, is quite insignificant. A proof of the existence and practice of wholesome discipline, and of sound instruction in the Foundling Hospitals, and of the general benefit of early (the very earliest) moral and religious training.

The labor of these prisoners, generally (we are now speaking of those under twenty-one years), is divided into agricultural and industrial; and this division extends to girls as well as to boys; and even the religious communities, convents, &c., which receive young girls, are invited to enclose large portions of their ground, so that their *prisoners* may be instructed and practised in the art of farming and gardening.

The administration of prison affairs has not neglected to give the preponderance to agricultural employment in all the establishments which it directs. And the new government establishment on the Island of Corsica, of immense size and capacity, is to receive, as one of its principal elements of population, children sentenced to severer punishment than those that are to be retained in the local houses, and there the education will be largely agricultural.

Of all the children sentenced to these primary prisons, about one-third could read and write; and almost all have, in the prisons, learned to read and write and cipher; if ignorant, or, if passably educated, they have advanced in their learning.

The causes of commitment vary from assassination, poison and arson, down to disobedience to parents. Of course there are some for intoxication. Simple small thefts amount to nearly 30,000; disobedience to parents, 980; and each offence has its special punishment. The religious and moral instruction seems to be provided for in most of the prisons; and, perhaps, the best means of securing to the young the benefit of this instruction is the enforcement of labor, in a particular direction, by which some trade or respectable industry is acquired. And we notice that the government has provided rewards for the various classes of boys and girls, according to their age, and especially according to the time of their imprisonment. And it is a sign of improvement that the number to whom these tokens of approval were awarded doubled from one period to another. And a concluding paragraph in one report, relative to children, that would include all from six to twenty-one years of age, says: "Signs of great improvement are noticeable in the children's conduct, and the administration has been enabled to discharge, provisionally, many of the young prisoners on account of good conduct; and the directors of the establishment have given an increased number of certificates of the savings bank, and also pecuniary recompense. This is a tendency which it is gratifying to encourage."

A large proportion of the *children* are occupied in field and farm labor, yet attempts to escape are very rare. In these prisons and farms for the young, the number of deaths is about four per cent. per annum for boys, but the per centage is greater of girls, owing, probably, to their sedentary habits.

About fifteen per cent. of the boys, and eight per cent. of girls, after being discharged, are reconvicted and return.

In the last period of five years, 9,678 had been liberated, almost all in good health, with tolerable good elementary and religious education, and in a condition to gain a living. Of that number 7,513 returned to their families; 1,680 had been bound out to citizens or remained in the establishments; 131 had enlisted in the army or navy; and 354 had been confided to the societies formed to receive and direct such young folks. These societies (*de patronage*) are so useful that regret is expressed that they are not greatly multiplied. The Society of Seine,—that is, of Paris,—is eminently successful. All of them, however, find some difficulty in the clashing of their own with paternal authority.

Children, on leaving the various prisons and prison farms, receive good clothes, and, some of them, small sums of money. 6,182 children, discharged, received clothes costing 154,948 francs; and 5,458 received money, amounting to 82,033 francs.

The reports for 1852 intimate that the French Government has determined to extend the uses of penitentiary farms; and the advantage to the health of the prisoners is deemed very important. Large establish-



ments of the kind have been formed in various parts of the Empire; but especially has the Island of Corsica been selected for these agricultural schools, two of which are in full operation there, one at Casabianca, and the other at Clairvaux. The face of the country, the climate, the soil, and the entire isolation of the establishment, insure profit from the labors, and security from escape. But this is studying profits a little, and perhaps health some; yet the constant association of the convicts can scarcely be regarded as a means of moral improvement.

The proportion totally uninstructed among the prisoners of the large establishments in France, is certainly greater than in this country; for example, of prisoners whose crimes were not so great as to admit no instruction, nearly two per cent. were well educated; fifty-four per cent. could read, and read and write; and forty-four per cent. were entirely without elementary instruction; and the Report says, "These numbers seem to establish the fact that superior education is incontestably a preservative against the transgression of the laws of social order: that the education which stops at the first elements, differs very little from absolute ignorance—when it is not accompanied by moral instruction." And it is well added: "The administrators of the penitentiaries are earnest in their endeavors to unite moral and literary training, by causing a co-operation between the chaplains and the 'sisters,' in the elementary instruction, and also at the courts in the prisons, where are pronounced sentences for violations of rules. These services, with the concurrence of religion and labor, constitute the moral order of the establishment."

Yet, we notice that only twenty-one per cent. of the prisoners profit by the lessons of the school, more than forty per cent. made no progress, and thirty-three per cent. remain totally ignorant.

In explanation of the last fact, viz : the great number of those who had no learning when they entered the prison, and acquired none there—it is stated that sixty-one per cent. of them are from the country, and that almost all who have passed thirty years (of which there are about thirty-three per cent.) are unfitted to receive any instruction ; and finally, that the benefits of schools are refused to the depraved and the perverse. Thus about seventy per cent. are unlikely to learn, and of 1,860, of both sexes, admitted to the school in one year, 225 have been dismissed for misconduct, and 105 for inaptitude.

When a prisoner is received into any of the prisons in which he is to be retained, his name is inscribed on a list, according to his former occupation ; and these pursuits are classed according to some analogy, thus : cabinet makers, carpenters, coach makers, cart makers, turners, coopers, &c., are together. It may create a smile to notice that pedlars, singers, and chimney-sweeps are placed in one category.

Ninety-three per cent. of the men, and ninety-six of the women, condemned to labor, follow the same pursuits in prison that they exercised before condemned.

It is remarked, that of all the prisoners condemned to hard labor, the greatest number is invariably found among those employments which require the least intellectual or manual aptitude, *e. g.* masons' assistants, day-

laborers, &c. The soldiers and sailors have a large proportional representation among those who are at hard labor—who are in solitary confinement or in irons. Among those who are condemned to what is called reclusion or solitary confinement, we find 11,608 men to 2,270 women; but it is remarkable that, of those condemned to hard labor, there are 1,453 women to 544 men; and of these, the sentences to hard labor are—from five to ten years, 130 men to 518 women; from ten to twenty years, 263 men to 632 women; and for life, 151 men to 303 women. The punishment of chains is diminishing, and will soon cease by law.

In the list of the crimes for which the prisoners are to suffer, we notice that fifty-three per cent. are for personal violence. Nearly half are for robberies. The number of infanticides is 817, of which thirteen are chargeable to men, the rest to women. Of murder there were 416, of which 192 were by women.

Of the whole number of prisoners (21,171) in the great prisons, 7,077 men and 995 women have been previously condemned from one to six times. The Report shows that these returned prisoners (*recidivistes*) are chiefly those who had previously suffered only a very short imprisonment; and in proportion as those returning prisoners have been condemned to solitary confinement, (reclusion,) is the diminution of their number. The following remark of the author of the Report is worthy of notice, as being at once a valuable testimony to separate confinement, and to the necessity of leaving the prisoners without hope of pardon. We therefore translate.

Our observation is confirmed by the criminal statistics, which have, for a long time, established the diminution of numbers of those who return to the prison upon having undergone a severe sentence in a former period. The discipline, the privation, the religious instruction, the education moral and professional, require a certain time for proof and a sustained practice, that they may exercise their salutary influence upon natures hardened and generally opposed to every thing that contradicts their instincts. By these means, those who are in separate confinement during all their imprisonment—which is an average of six years—are placed in a condition to feel the effects of the penal regulations, to learn a trade which will lead them to industrious habits, and furnish them, at the expiration of their sentence, with a sufficiency of money, their own earnings and savings, to guarantee them against the suggestions of want, and occasions of falling again into crime.

We refer our readers to a letter in our last year's Report, on the subject of pardons, as corresponding with these ideas of the French writer; and still further will our views be confirmed by the following, which we translate as a continuation of the same remark:

“The *correctionals* (those who, in some degree, answer to the inmates of the county prisons in Pennsylvania,) who form more than two-thirds of the population of the prison, are discharged from the establishment in great numbers each year, without having experienced the pain and the intimidation which ought to have been exercised—before they have received essential ideas, religious, moral and industrial, and acquired resources which would aid them to return to an honest life. They take away from these central prisons only the sad influences and the unfortunate name of “discharged convict,” which, by a deplorable prejudice, hinders them from procuring labor. Do not these considerations suffi-

ciently explain the considerable number of second, third and fourth convictions of men who, in their former imprisonment, suffered only the ordinary sentence?"

In addition to the statements to which we refer, there is also a particular report of the kind, amount, and number of punishments inflicted upon the prisoners for violation of the rules of the prisons.

The following requirements of the authorities show the kind of offences:—

Absolute, silent, steady labor from ten to twelve hours daily, according to the seasons; prohibition of the possession of money, of the use of tobacco, spirituous or fermented liquors.

Violation of these rules incur for punishment:

Solitary confinement, with or without labor.

Chains, if the prisoner be violent.

Interdiction of the walk for a greater or less time.

Deprivation of food; diet of dry bread and water.

Certain fines, and the suspension of the reward for over-work.

In the list of the punishments, we noticed that the proportion of women who have talked too much is less than that of men. The prohibition of conversation is considered the most severe discipline.

PARDON, COMMUTATION, &c.—Of 21,000 prisoners, 320 men and 48 women have been pardoned; 36 men and 4 women have had their punishments commuted; 350 men and 80 women have had their sentences reduced.

Here it is worthy of note, as confirming the former

remarks on separate confinement, that, of the catagories of those pardoned, those who were in solitary confinement and represent only a quarter of the whole number of prisoners, exceed those who were associated in the prisons, although the latter were two-thirds of the whole.

Of those who received direct rewards for good conduct, there were 1,730 men and 170 women.

**OVER-WORK.**—In the prisons of Pennsylvania each convict usually receives a compensation for his labor, after a certain amount is earned for the institution. This is done by fixing the amount of each week's labor, and then paying fairly for all excess. Or the workman is allowed a fixed compensation for all of his work; and usually, an industrious person can save about one hundred dollars a year. In France, the following is the tariff of compensation :—

|                                            |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| For those condemned to hard labor,         | three-tenths of their earnings. |
| Solitary confinement,                      | four-tenths “ “                 |
| Ordinary correctional or common prisoners, | five-tenths “                   |

For those who are reconvicted a second time, one-tenth is deducted, till the last tenth, which must, in all cases, be retained for encouragement and profit of the prisoner.

By a recent regulation there is an examination, every six months, of the labor and conduct of the prisoners, and their rewards or wages may be augmented or reduced, accordingly as they have conducted.

Under this head we may notice what is called *Pecule*—the parts allowed to the prisoners of the products of their labor, constitute the *Pecule*, which is divided into two equal parts, one is at their disposal for the purchase

of supplementary furniture, and the other is retained till they are discharged, if it exceeds not twenty francs (\$4), if it exceeds that, the excess is forwarded to them at the place of their residence. If the discharged prisoner should not have any *Pecule*, or but little, he receives aid to return home, and clothes.

|                                                              |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| The <i>Pecule</i> earned in the prison for the last year was | 828,702 francs. |
| “ “ taken away by the prisoners, was                         | 622,362 “       |
|                                                              | <hr/>           |
|                                                              | 1,451,060 “     |

The gross or average extra earnings are  $23\frac{1}{2}$  centimes for each day of labor, or a little less than five cents a day.

It is proper to add that, in addition to the “*pecule disponible*,”—that is, to be spent in the prison,—the convicts receive considerable additions from their contractors, the overseers, &c. Under the head of rewards and encouragement, in the report for the last year, these rewards amount to 206,615 francs; but this is liable to deductions for misconduct.

The costume of the prisoners is composed of a dress made of drugget—linen and wool for winter, and linen and cotton for the summer—of caps, wooden shoes and slippers.

The food is as follows:—A *ration* of 750 grammes (a gramme is about 19 grains,) of bread, one-third rye and two-thirds wheat; one quart of soup, containing 90 grammes of white bread and vegetables; and, on Sundays, 150 grammes of meat, compose the food. Those who earn “*pecule disponible*” may add to their rations, and send the remainder to their families, or make volun-

tary restitution to those whom they have wronged. These two last items augment every year. It is beautiful to observe the increasing amount used in reparation, entirely a matter of conscience.

The report speaks most encouragingly of the expense of agricultural prisons, especially of one in Corsica; and the production of cereals, and of cattle, has been remunerative. Of these agricultural and horticultural prisons, we can only say that they appear to us preferable to the associated system of in-door labor. If separate confinement is to be dispensed with, then, we think, the field is better for the prisoner than the workshop; and especially is it to be preferred for the convict who has been used to a country life.

In these colonies the average day's labor, out of doors, is about 75 per cent. of all the time.

Of course, in this country, we could do but little with a farm penitentiary: it would cost too much for guards, unless, indeed, we could make some of the islands of our great lakes, or our Atlantic coasts, penitentiary stations. Men would *work* there, perhaps, but would they *think*?

CHILDREN.—It is proper to state here that boys and girls are sent from the ordinary correctional establishments, to the agricultural colonies, not arbitrarily, but after remaining in close confinement for six months, in which time the directors have opportunities for judging of their capabilities. In all the establishments care is taken to separate the young from the old offenders; and, from time to time, they have a kind of promotion; and, at the time of their discharge, they are placed under the



patronage of "public assistance" for three years or less. In Paris, the "Society of Patronage" steps in at this point, and takes charge of the discharged, and supplies them with suitable employment.

There are twenty-five Houses of Correction for girls, one only of which is public; the others are private, probably like our Homes, though under the operation of the general laws of the Empire. In all these (twenty-five) houses the young girls were occupied in suitable labor, principally with the needle. But, in 1862, the "Minister of the Interior" directed that as many girls as possible should be occupied on farms and in garden-work; and this order has already been obeyed, in part, in several of the private establishments. In the prison known as "The Solitude of Nazareth," agricultural labors have for a long time been applied; and most of the establishments are now getting ready for the new application of labor.

The population of all these houses for children, of both sexes, were, in 1862, 8,172, viz: 6,463 boys and 1,709 girls. The number of boys diminishes annually, that of girls increases.

In 1862, the number that died was 194; and 64 boys were placed at apprenticeship; 2,410 left on account of the expiration of their terms of punishment.

Of the whole population, 6,762 were legitimate, and 1,410 illegitimate, the latter being about 17 per cent. of the whole.

The largest portion of these little prisoners were children of parents living by their labors, or without regular employment,—beggars and vagabonds,—a vicious edu-

cation, and the want of parental watchfulness, explain the large number of this class.

The following is a statement of the religious relations of these young offenders :—Catholics, 8,035; Protestants, 123; Jews, 14.

The administration takes care that the children who are not Catholics shall be transferred to penal establishments, where they may receive religious instructions of their own communion, and follow its practice. The children of the reformed worship (German Protestants,) are sent to the Colony of Saint Foy. Liberty of conscience is thus secured. It would seem that the government of France is solicitous about the education of the children that are confined for crimes. Care is taken to ascertain the exact amount of education which each young prisoner has received, when he enters, and to note the progress, if any, on leaving.

Of 5,331 entirely illiterate, 4,223 had, in 1862, received some primary instruction; 1,865 had learned to read; 1,282 to read and write; 1,186 to read, write and cipher.

The sanitary state of the prisons is constantly improving. The deaths were about two and a-half per cent. for the year. Of the whole number (8,048,) 1,956 were released; of which number 280 were under sixteen years of age. Of the whole 65, of whom 61 were boys, had been previously in prison.

During their residence in these prisons, 1,083, viz: 932 boys and 151 girls—had acquired a good knowledge of farming—873 some mechanical trade; so that 1601 of those who were discharged, were in a situation to

earn a good living. There were 355 (of whom 149 were girls) who, from bad health or inaptitude, were not in a situation to labor. Of those who were liberated, 95 boys and 65 girls remained, from choice, in the establishment. 1191 boys and 226 girls returned to their families. 98 boys and 11 girls were confided to the Society for providing for children discharged from prison. And by the care of the Directors, 12 entered the army and navy; and 193 boys and girls have been placed as agricultural laborers and domestics.

This part of the French Report thus terminates:

"A general plan of management, discipline, economy, and schools and professions, will soon be established.

"There will also, before long, be provided means for patronizing the young prisoners during the three years that succeed their liberation."

In vain will the State have imposed upon itself the sacrifice to detain, elevate, and endow with professions, the children of which it assumes the care, if, on their discharge from the public establishments, there should be no assisting institution to watch their first step in the path of freedom. The organization of the Society of Patronage secures this triumph, without which the rules for correctional education would be incomplete and inefficient."

**PRISON HOUSES.**—There are 404 prisons, and 2,242 rooms and depots of security, in Paris and the other parts of France, in which are kept the persons of both sexes who are accused and arrested, and those condemned to

one year imprisonment and over, or who are waiting to be transferred to the large penal establishments, or are prevented from removal by some civil action, debts, or police requisition.

The greatest number of these prisons, taken for the use of the department in 1811 and since, and which had not been constructed for such purposes, were for the most part very defective as places of detention, with regard to order, discipline and salubrity. In 1852, of 397 prisons, 60 barely realized in any degree the requirements of the penal code. In all the other the entirely promiscuous mingling of the prisoners confounded all classes and both sexes. The Government; in 1853, having renounced the cellular system, (that is not to be confounded with separate confinement) direct reports from Prefects relative to the reconstruction, or new uses of the buildings, according to the plan of separation by categories, or classification of crimes, or by means of quarters of chambers, common or individual, according to the number and the class of the prisoners, and the necessities of discipline and judiciary instruction.

Besides all these, the prisons at that time were generally in a most shameful condition; destitute of furniture, clothing, bedding, and of all materials necessary to the service. Grave abuses also existed in the supplies, and in the regulation of expenditures. By a law of France, the State took in charge, on the first of January, 1856, the expenses of the service that had previously been paid from the funds of the departments, and the result has been the correction of monstrous abuses, and the introduction of excellent and cheap supplies into the prison,

a diminution of actual expenses, and a progressive augmentation of the product of prison labor.

The expense of the service was, under the old regime, 1 franc 13 centimes a day for each person. At present the expense is 80 centimes—about 16 cents of our money. The product of the labor, which in 1855 was, in all departments, (excepting Paris,) 15,466 francs, was in 1862, 900,000 francs.

In 1862, more than two-thirds of the prisons of France realized the object of the law, as it concerns the separation of divers classes of the convicts, and the alleviation of the evils of the old prisons is rapidly progressing.

**PRISONS OF PARIS.**—The Report from which we are now deriving these interesting statements, separates the prisons of the Department of the Seine from those of other parts of the Empire, as the population of Paris is different from that of the other parts of France, and especially as the means for meliorating the condition of prisoners are more available, and perhaps better arranged, in that city. The separation is just on many accounts.

There are in Paris eight prisons, including the depot for the Prefecture of Police and the House of Correctional Education for young prisoners—a sort of house of refuge. The depot mentioned above is the receptacle for those who are to be transported, and is a kind of depot of safety; about 40,000 persons of both sexes pass through it each year. Four of these prisons are exclusively for men; one (Saint Lazar) is for women only.

The other three contain both sexes. In this category is Clichy, the "Debtors' Apartment" of Paris.

The average population of all these prisons (in Paris) was, in 1862: men, 3,523; women, 1,430; total, 4,953. The whole number of commitments that year was 25,570 men, and 8,887 women; total, 34,457. Rather more men discharged than were committed. Of those who were committed in 1862, 14,838 men and 8,465 women were arrested in that city; 10,727 men and 422 women came from other prisons.

Though imprisonment for debt is still allowable in Paris, yet we find, in the list of commitments, only 118 from that cause. Of the very young who are sent to the public prisons of Paris, we find only 21 who were tried, and 86 detained by parental correction.

**PUNISHMENT OF PRISONERS.**—There were in the Paris prisons, in the year 1862, 2,991 punishments inflicted. They were as follows:—

|                                                |   |   |       |
|------------------------------------------------|---|---|-------|
| Put into a "dungeon" (dark cell),              | - | - | 2,010 |
| Fed on bread and water, from one to three days |   |   |       |
| and more,                                      | - | - | 717   |
| Other punishments,                             | - | - | 264   |

205 prisoners were punished three times each, and 75 more than three times.

The punishments were more numerous in 1862 than in 1861, by 327; but it is not stated whether these proceeded from a more general application of rules or a more frequent violation of them. Nor are we told what was the exact character of the offences.

**SANITORY.**—6,755 prisoners entered the infirmary, and 25 were sent to the hospital. Of 193,064 days spent by all in the infirmary, 75,940 were by men, and 117,340 by women, and 1,786 by girls; 370 days were spent in the hospital.

There were thirteen cases of mental alienation, from causes preceding imprisonment, and seven cases presented for the first time in prison.

There were 476 deaths, of which two were suicides. Among the deaths were 315 men and 161 women. The deaths were about 8½ per cent. The proportion of deaths decreases. In 1860 it was 10 per cent.

**LABOR AND ITS PRODUCT.**—There is an organized plan of labor in all the prisons of Paris excepting that of Clichy, (for debt,) where inmates are not subjected to the rule of work.

In 1862, about 62 per cent. of the prisoners were employed in various kinds of mechanical labor and in "house-work."

In 1862 the product from labor was 392,790 francs, or about 40 centimes (8 cents) for each day laborer. This is an increase of 30,000 francs over 1861. In the year 1855 the product was 221,000 francs.

**OF THE PRISONS NOT IN PARIS.**—There are 2,240 prisons (besides those of the Department of the Seine) in France. This includes all grades—houses of reception, of correction, detention, and depots. These contained a floating population of 290,370 men, and 70,899 women; total, 362,269; of whom, 14,922 men and

3,979 women remained at the close of the year. The number of commitments is about 2,000 per year.

Fifty prisoners made their escape; of whom thirty-six were retaken, which, considering the miserable state of some of the prisons, and the exposures of the Agricultural and Horticultural Establishments, denotes great watchfulness. The guards, or keepers of various grades, are 1,220, of whom 900, private and ordinary, are for the men, and 320 lay and religious are for the females, and a chaplain (*Aumonier*) conducts the religious services in each prison.

In mentioning the number of *religieuses* keepers, it is proper to recall to our readers the fact that many of the young women (offenders) are sent to convents and other religious houses for correction and improvement, as in this city females are withdrawn from the prisons, to be sent to the Howard Home, the House of Industry, the House of the Good Shepherd, the Rosine, or the Magdalene. But in France the care of the State follows the female to her new home, and the responsibility of care, kindness and accountability is upon the nuns or Sisters into whose establishments they are sent.

We notice that in the prisons outside of Paris and its environs, there are 396 men and 87 women, debtors to the Government, and 138 men and 3 women debtors to the citizens.

**DISCIPLINE.**—Punishments for violation of prison rules are similar to those in Paris, viz.: bread and water, dark cells, chains, in case of violence or of fury. The



whole number of punishments for the year was 22,250, of which, 3,647 were inflicted on the women.

The discipline varies according to the legal situation of the prisoners. That for the untried consists in interdictions of sports, of cries, songs, and loud conversation; visits are confined to the parlors, by permission of the prison authorities.

The convicts are subjected to more severe rules. They are made to undergo severe labor, to wear the penal costume; they are not allowed to receive visitors, excepting their nearest relatives, unless specially authorized by the Minister of the Interior or the Prefect, or sub-prefects; and tobacco, fermented drinks, the possession of money, and the occupation of reserved chambers, are interdicted.

LABOR AND PRODUCE.—The untried seem to have a claim upon all they can earn over and above the cost of living. The work of all the prisons seems to be in the hands of outside persons, who make contracts with the Government, and then get as much work as possible out of the prisoners by extra payment.

The profits of their labor seem to be constantly augmenting in proportion to application of the new rules and the conformity of the prisons to the general regulation.

The whole *ordinary* expenses of the prisons of France for 1856 were 17,041,998 francs. In 1862 they were 14,459,605 francs. The average daily cost of each prisoner is 83 centimes, or about 17 cents.

**HORTICULTURAL PRISONS.**—In the course of this abstract we have mentioned the agricultural school prisons for young folks, and at the risk of repeating some figures, we translate a notice of the new Horticultural Colony of St. Anthony, on the Island of Corsica, containing 350 hectares, or 720 acres of land, costing the Government 45,000 francs.

The colony is composed of rural buildings, about three and a half miles from Ajaccio. Houses are erected, and all the necessary appliances of a settlement are furnished. The surface of the land is broken, hilly, and marshy plain. Great and successful labor has been bestowed. All kinds of vegetables are raised in the valleys and slopes, and nurseries have been formed. The summits of the hills are being covered with fruit trees, and though for the present the face of the land forbids large production, yet enough is raised to feed the cattle and supply the table of the prison.

The colony is intended for 600 children, (let it be remembered that by children is understood all from six to twenty-one years; of course most of the children from sixteen to twenty-one are sent to other prisons,) who have been condemned to at least two years imprisonment, and the *insubordinate* of other establishments.

The health is good, the deaths being about 2.39 per cent.

In this colony, as in others of a like character, the young inmates, besides labors purely agricultural, are taught arts that appertain to agriculture generally, and to ordinary pursuits—shoemaking, tailoring, carpentering, wagon-making and mending, and repairing

houses, clothes, &c. ; and care is taken to avoid the habit of confining the children to a single trade.

**OTHER ITEMS.**—It is interesting to notice the causes of imprisonment in the several establishments for children :

Assassination, 9 boys and 5 girls ; murder and arson, 132 boys and 38 girls ; indecency and violence in that direction, 218 boys and 112 girls ; assaults with violence, 122 boys and 16 girls ; simple robbery, fraud, stealing, &c., 3,950 boys and 880 girls ; qualified robbery, passing counterfeit money, &c., 342 boys and 25 girls.

We notice that 502 boys and 187 girls were committed in 1862 for begging, and 1,133 boys and 296 girls for vagrancy. For disobedience to parents, 55 boys and 150 girls—a very curious and serious charge in the relative proportion of the sexes.

By the law, the Court may decide whether a child is of sufficient age and mind to be amenable to the penal statutes ; and in 1862, 7,975 were acquitted on the ground of inability to distinguish right from wrong. These were not sent home, but were placed in public or private institutions, where their morals and their manners could be moulded to good.

The children are punished for infraction of prison rules as severely as are prisoners of mature age—close confinement, dark cell, bread and water, &c.—and the principal offences in prison were, in number, 23,074. In kind, they were theft, immorality, assault, idleness, and insubordination. For theft, the girls committed about 40 per cent. ; for assault, about 12 per cent. ;

idleness, about 15 per cent.; insubordination, 60 per cent. Yet the whole number of girls is not 25 per cent., showing that they are more inclined to the infraction of house rules than to the violation of state laws. Of course, in noticing the number of offences against the rules of the House, it will be recollected that some of the inmates contrive to get themselves into discipline about every week of the year. They probably would have made themselves as often amenable to the criminal laws of the State abroad had opportunities presented. Offences against private rules are usually only abortive attempts at violation of the public law. The same animus is discoverable, the same motive is traceable; nothing is required but the means and opportunity. Fear and policy often lead the prisoners, old as well as young, to put on an appearance of submission when none is felt. Such persons make a part of a class of offenders abroad quite as dangerous, if not as violent as those who doggedly and insultingly set at defiance the rules of the prison, and commit every fault that at the moment seems most gratifying, and has with it the chance of evading detection. It is, we think, the experience of most of those who are connected with the government of prisons, that the female portion are usually much more given to the violation of prison rules than are the males, while the number of males committed for considerable crimes is greatly superior to that of females. It is not very gratifying to exhibit the superiority of the male sex by the extent and number of their crimes, nor will it be admitted as an argument in

favor of the equality of the sexes, that females require more discipline in prison than males.

A good Providence has directed that the true measure of the qualities of human beings is their virtues, the practical, substantial, thought-conferring qualities which they possess and exercise. With that standard we may admit that there is an equality in the sexes, each estimated by the qualities that are proper to its condition.

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## GREAT BRITAIN.

We have received from London the official returns of all the prisons in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, and the statement is full and creditable to the officers. In a former number of our journal we made such copious extracts from, and such full abstracts of these reports, that we gave our readers full means to understand the system of prison punishment in Great Britain, and the general mode of its administration. We shall have to refer those interested, to our labors then, for much that relates to the subject, as our limits will not admit of an enlarged abstract, which would involve some repetitions. The system is the same. There seems to have been some improvement in the administration, and also in the mode of reporting thereupon, and that last improvement is one that we would especially notice, because we believe that what is wanted in Pennsylvania, in the first place, is a thorough, correct statement of all the facts relative to the discipline, cost and direction of every

prison in the State. Let that be once fairly commenced, and we shall be on the high road of improvement.

The Reports from Great Britain are in two volumes. The first includes the southern counties of England and those of the principality of Wales. The second volume contains reports of the prisons of the northern counties of England and those of Scotland. In some of the southern counties there are six, seven, and even eight prisons. Kent county has eight prisons, Middlesex (London) has six, while other counties which contain a part of London have eight more.

We notice in these reports, that cells to be used for any purpose are examined by some admitted authority, who certifies that they are suitable for "separate confinement," before they can be thus employed. This denotes a care for the health and safety of the prisoners, and a wish to have all things lead to the great end of imprisonment.

We do not infer from the Report that the possession or usage of cells certified for separate confinement ensured the prisoner's continued separation from his fellow sufferers, as we note in the returns, reference to labor that would require associated effort, especially that of breaking stone in the yard of the prison. This work is probably for the repairing of the macadamised roads. Yet in some of the prisons, where nothing is paid for the labor, the surveyor of the roads complains of the cost of carting the stone to and fro. We notice also that the prisoners in some of these jails take their meals in association, in a day-room, instead of receiving them sepa-

rately in their cells. The idea of the value of separate confinement seems to prevail, but it is difficult to conquer old habits, so as to have the plan completely carried out.

The diet for prisoners differs in different parts of the kingdom. We notice that in Carmathenshire (Wales) the following is the dietary for the fifth (the hardest working) class for one week: 12½ pounds of bread, 6 ounces of cheese, 2 pounds of potatoes, 4 pints of soup, and 17 pints of gruel.

The cost of feeding each prisoner is about two shillings (50 cents) a week.

A much more liberal dietary is established in Buckinghamshire. The fourth class receives weekly 168 ounces of bread, 12 ounces of meal, 32 ounces of potatoes, 3 pints of soup, and 14 pints of gruel.

In most of the prisons extra diet is allowed when ordered by the surgeons.

We find in the list of offences requiring imprisonment in England, two which are not mentioned in the list of causes of imprisonment in Pennsylvania, viz.: debt, and rick-burning. Both offences are perhaps committed here as well as there. But it is mentioned that in Wales rick-burning was practised by a miserable few, in order to secure to themselves the advantage of penal confinement. It is a crime easily committed, and involving less immediate personal danger in the act than most other offences that lead to imprisonment.

In most of the county and borough prisons the hours of labor daily, are eight or nine, and about two for exercise. The women do the washing and mending, and

making clothes, and picking oakum. The males are employed in weaving shirting and sheeting, tailoring, shoemaking, &c., and in carpentering, bricklaying, painting, &c., for the prison building. We do not notice that any prisoner, however steadily he may work, obtains pay for overwork.

The profits of all prisoners' work seem to be put into the treasury of the prison, towards the expenses of maintenance. The treadmill, we notice, is in constant use in some of the prisons, and in some prisons, where there is no treadmill, prisoners are employed in turning an immense capstan, which, however, is not connected with any useful machinery, so that just so much power is wasted.

The health of the prisoners seems to be well cared for. Physicians visit most of the jails daily, and oftener if circumstances render greater frequency necessary.

Every prison seems to be provided with a chaplain of the Established Church, and there seems to be a regular service of that Church. In one of the London prisons the Chaplain gives two full services on Sunday, with sermons. He reads prayers daily, and addresses the prisoners every Wednesday; sees every prisoner both on admission and discharge; visits the sick daily, makes cellular visitations in rotation, and inspects the school. The schoolmaster acts as chapel clerk, has charge of the library, distributes the books, and is engaged four hours daily in instructing the prisoners. A female warden acts as schoolmistress, and devotes the afternoon to scholastic duties. The prison is well supplied



with books. Deserving prisoners are usually assisted by means of the Sheriffs' and Magistrates' Fund, and 689 males and 261 females received assistance from that Fund in the last year; and it is added that many of the prisoners who have been assisted in this manner are known by the authorities of the prison to be now earning an honest livelihood.

With regard to religious services, it is said that Dissenters and Catholics have every facility given to them for seeing their own minister.

In the reports of most of the English prisons, it is said the Catholics and Protestant Dissenters can have clergymen of their own denomination when they choose to send for them. This may be tolerance, and we suppose it is, but tolerance is not exactly what is needed in these cases. The experience of visitors to prisons is, that the prisoners do not often call for a clergyman of their own or of any other denomination, until they have, by the interference of kind visitors, been made to understand the necessity of some religious ministrations. This is evidently understood by the Government of Great Britain when it assigns clergymen to the prisons, and pays them for teaching and praying and preaching. It would seem that, in a matter of such importance, the direct monitory instruction and exhortations of a clergyman of his own creed might be due to the condition of the prisoner. We notice that in the Surrey (London) Prison, while the Protestant prisoners are supplied by Government each with a copy of the Holy Scriptures ordinarily used by the Established Church and Protestants generally, (King James' translation,) the same

authority supplies each Catholic prisoner with a copy of the Douay Bible, the Catholic translation into English.

We notice that all the cells, excepting those for punishment, are lighted. That would be almost necessary for six months of the year, because in London light at midday could scarcely struggle into the prison from October to March.

Great benefit has resulted to prisoners leaving the Surrey Jail, from the efforts of the Surrey Society for Employment and Reformation of Discharged Prisoners.

In this prison, it is said, ample provision is made for the religious instruction of prisoners of every denomination.

We notice in some of the reports that mention is made of the religious and moral benefits resulting from the exertions of prison societies.

The preceding portion of the abstract of the British Reports has reference to the prisons of the South District. On examining the volume containing the report for the Northern District, we find little to note beyond what we have already said; acting under one law, the whole returns seem to be much alike, and we can discover differences only as they result from different circumstances of the locality, and the yet lingering habits of thought and action of other times, which cannot fail to affect, in a considerable degree, the administration of prison affairs even though governed by the same code of laws.

Lancashire may be regarded as a county much in-

fluenced, in its social condition, by circumstances that do not act upon many other shires in the northern division of the kingdom.

Liverpool is the second commercial capital of the kingdom, and is crowded by people from all parts of the commercial world; people without permanent residence, whose influence must be felt in the habits and morals of the people. Almost all who come from Ireland land in Liverpool, and the attraction of strangers and the vices of a great city keep there thousands of females, who might be usefully employed elsewhere. Liverpool perhaps affords the smallest proportionate amount of female labor of any city in the kingdom, and, unfortunately, food and clothing are as necessary to the unemployed as to the actively industrious. Hence we find in the statistics of the Liverpool Borough Jail the record of an appalling number of degraded females, —no less than *one thousand five hundred and twenty-six in nine months!* The report says that some of these “miserable offenders” have been committed thirty, forty, fifty, and even sixty times, though not more than twenty-six or twenty-seven years old.

The Lancaster Borough Jail has 1,001 cells certified for separate confinement, with 28 cells in the hospital, 4 in the convalescent rooms, 30 punishment cells, and 9 yards for exercise. There are also 27 sleeping cells for *debtors*, 3 day-rooms, and 4 yards for exercise.

The dietary seems to be pretty good. For the fifth class of prisoners the weekly allowance is 291 ounces of solid food, and 17 pints of liquid food for the males, and 203 ounces of solid and 17 pints of liquid food for

the females. The average weekly cost of food for each class is 25s. 0½d. per head. Extra diet is served by order of the surgeons.

Successful efforts are here made to provide for those who are leaving prison; and the number of discharged females sent to institutions suitable to their character and connections is very great, and constantly increasing.

An act of Parliament, called the "Reformatory Act," has a very important bearing on juvenile offenders, requiring of magistrates a second inquiry into their circumstances, and permitting the authorities to send those, who may be worthy, to a Reformatory, after due investigation. In the year 1855 there were 990 juveniles committed to the borough jail of Lancaster,—of these twenty-seven were remanded for "further inquiry," and nineteen were sent to the Reformatory. In 1864 there were 633 juveniles (of both sexes) committed, of whom 547 were remanded for inquiry, and 132 sent to the Reformatory after such inquiry. This shows a most important and healthful operation of the Reformatory law. At a recent "Annual Jail Sessions," the Prison Minister's Bill was brought into full operation, and its effects are highly lauded. It seems to allow to the prison two daily religious services,—one for the Episcopalian (English Church), the other for the Catholic. The Episcopalian clergyman speaks highly of the operation of the arrangement, as it regards his special duties; and the Catholic clergyman employed says: "The system adopted here, in conformity with the "Prison Minister's" act, has worked admirably, and given general satisfaction. For this I have to express my gratitude to the

governor and chaplain, who have arranged the details to carry out the spirit of the act, and who have, in their daily intercourse, shown towards me the greatest kindness and courtesy. I feel deeply interested in the work in which I am engaged, and, so far, the results of my labors have afforded me much consolation."

Surely there is a good spirit at work in the Lancaster borough jail. The Christian emulation, on the part of the two chaplains, as to who shall do the most good is not found more in the labors of each for the prisoners of his special denomination than in the courtesy with which the one yields space for labors of the other, and the Christian spirit in which the courtesy is received and acknowledged. This seems to illustrate the riddle of the Israelitish champion, "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness."

The surgeon, who attends the men daily, and is assisted by a resident surgeon, states that the health of the prisoners is remarkably good, and this is imputed to the strict attention which is paid to cleanliness and ventilation in every part of the building, and the use of disinfecting agents and apparatus.

The officers of this prison (where the average number of prisoners is about 1000,) are governor, chaplain, Roman Catholic priest, surgeon and assistant surgeon, three school-masters, three school-mistresses, matron, three clerks, three upper wardens, thirty-four male and seventeen female wardens—total, sixty-nine.

In other prisons in Lancashire, we do not find the same consideration for a religious conscience that is manifested in the Lancaster borough jail, and this may be

said of more of the other prisons in the neighboring districts.

We notice that in all the prisons of Great Britain the sentence of "hard labor is construed to mean real hard work, such as the tread-mill, the windlass, &c., &c.

At Hull, Yorkshire, there exists a society to aid discharged prisoners, and 114 men and 55 women were, in 1864, assisted at a cost of about \$110. The whole number relieved since 1857, is 601 men and 358 women, at a cost of about \$840—sometimes in money, sometimes in clothing. Small as the relief is, it is received with gratitude, and in many instances it accomplishes the desired effect.

The religious (Episcopal) services in the York Castle county prison are daily and extensive.

In the Wakefield (Yorkshire) prison, we notice that there are two chapels provided, one for Protestants, the other for Catholics.

The inspectors recommend additional cells, in order that "separate confinement" may be complete.

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## SCOTLAND.

In Scotland there are thirty-one counties and forty-seven prisons.

The prisons in Aberdeen consist of two buildings, about a mile apart. The cells are about eight by six, and nine feet high; they contain three beds each.

In this town there exists an association called the "Ladies' Prison Association," with the object of reforming female prisoners, and the chaplain states that the results of this organization have been, in many respects, highly satisfactory. There is, also, a House for Fallen Females, supported by voluntary contribution; it has now twelve inmates. This is daily visited by one of a committee of ladies.

The prison in Ayrshire is visited by the members of the County Prison Board, and once every month by one of the prison managers of Scotland.

In Rothsay (Buteshire) prison, we notice that the cells are certified as separate; but, it is stated, that there are eight females and one child in five cells, and nine males in six cells. In most of these prisons, "*separate cells*" means only separate lodgings. The cells are very small.

The county prison in Edinburgh received, last year, 5,526 prisoners, with the following remarkable distinction of sex:—2,446 males and 3,058 females. We do not know the causes for this excess of females. The religious instruction is constant and regular, but almost entirely by the Presbyterian clergy, though clergy of other denominations may visit when required.

In regard to frequent commitments, we notice a statement that in Paisley (Renfrewshire) some of the prisoners have been committed seventy-five times.

One family, in the same place, seems entitled to special distinction.

The Father has been 3 times in prison.

" Mother " 5 " "

A third brother 4 " " besides 3 times in  
a Reformatory School.

A sister has been once in prison, and 5 times in a Reformatory School.

Different members of the mother's family, 10 times in prison, with 13 years at Reformatory Schools.

The prison in Zetlandshire had, when visited, one inmate, a civil prisoner, committed for not maintaining his illegitimate child. It is added, however, that it contains six cells for criminals, males and females, indiscriminately. That in 1863 there were more than twice as many prisoners as there were cells.

We do not enter more particularly into the accounts of the British prisons, because there is nothing, beyond what we have stated, which is particularly instructive, excepting the steadiness with which the rules are enforced.

The employment of prisoners is usually upon work that is required in the prison, or is demanded outside, such as picking oakum and hair, and wool, stone-breaking, cooking, mending, sewing, and washing. In one or two reports, it is mentioned that seventeen men and twenty women were employed in *teasing*, but it is not stated who or what was *teased*; perhaps a rope, which would be "picking oakum." In one list of employments—where, it is said, the sexes are not separated during the day—it is mentioned that some of both sexes are occupied in *match-making*; whether they are making loco-foco matches, or whether it is a typographical error, and mat-making is meant, it is not easy to decide.



## IRELAND.

The Report of the Inspectors General of Ireland, on the prisons, discipline, and the state of the jails in Ireland for the year 1864, is a large octavo volume, of nearly 500 pages. It is a document doing credit to the Government to whom it is addressed, justice to the prison officers whose conduct it notices, and honor to the labour,—assiduous and independent,—of those upon whose inspection it is founded.

From 1851—when the moral effects of the famines had nearly subsided—to the year 1862, there was “marked diminution of offences against law in Ireland;” and the statistics of the prisons of the whole of that kingdom show an annual diminution of commitments. For example: in January 1851, the whole number of persons in jail throughout the kingdom was 10,084. In January 1861, the whole number was 2,488. The diminution was gradual, and nearly the same difference was noticeable in all the months of the year, between 1851 and 1861 inclusive. In 1862 and ’63 the number of commitments increased, and naturally caused alarm. Yet, in 1864, the tables show an improved condition. The commitments of all kinds, for that year, were much diminished in number—to the amount of six per cent. in persons above sixteen years of age, and seventeen per cent. in those below. This great diminution of juvenile offenders is a source of felicitation; but the augmentation of the number of re-commitments of

females, seems to startle the Inspectors : it is nine per cent.; whereas the re-commitments of males is only at the rate of four per cent. It seems to us that the statement which alarms the Inspectors is rather calculated to afford consolation than fear. There is a diminution of juvenile offenders : of course, then, the fountain of prison supply is just so far dried up. There is a large diminution of the number of adults committed ; but in the commitments there is an increase of nine per cent. in those of females. Not in the number of persons, but in the number of times that each person is committed. These miserable, degraded creatures are of a class from which few are gathered for reformation—drunken prostitutes—and that in a country where employment is scarce and poorly compensated. Surely, on the whole, that fact may be regarded as favorable. In this country, the commitments of females constantly increases, while female labor is in demand at the highest price ever paid for it. It should be added, in support of the favorable view taken, that the number of commitments, low as it is, was greatly increased by the untoward event of a mob in Belfast, which added fifty per cent. to the number of prisoners in Antrim jail.

The terrible vice of DRUNKENNESS is greatly on the increase in Ireland, and hence we may infer that the diminution of commitments for crimes which now affords hope, will soon cease, because drunkenness will soon lead to crime. The Report says that the number of commitments for drunkenness, in the year 1864, over those in 1863, is 3,053. This is in *excess*—an increase of seventeen per cent. ; and this does not include the vast number who

paid a small fine in order to escape imprisonment. Nor does it refer to the class of offences—riots, assaults and personal violence—immediately consequent on drunkenness.

The whole number of drunkards committed in 1863, was: males, 3,350; females, 4,150; making 7,500. In 1864, the number committed was: of males, 4,168; females, 4,429; making a total of 8,597. It will be noticed here, that of this vast number, the largest is of females. Strange as this may appear in this country, it seems to excite no remark there. Perhaps the drunkenness of the men placed them in the category of criminals, by personal violence; and it is probable that a much larger number of men was enabled to pay their fine, and thus escape imprisonment. The increase in commitments for drunkenness is noticeable as far back as the tables extend.

The whole number of commitments, of all kinds, in Ireland, in the year 1854, was 60,445. In 1864 the number was 32,876. In 1864, the number of persons committed for the first time, under sixteen years of age, was: males, 769; females, 142; total, 911. Of these juveniles, the following statement is made: 76 boys and 12 girls had been committed twice, in that or some previous year; 22 boys and 5 girls, three times; 8 boys, four times; 1 boy, five times. And 16,017 persons over sixteen years of age, viz: 11,311 males, for 4,706 females, were committed for the first time; 1,855 males, 1,197 females, for the second time; 783 males, and 635 females, for the third time; 408 males, and 361 females, for the fourth time; 275 males, and 239 females, for the fifth time;

180 males, and 201 females, for the sixth time; 409 males, and 501 females, from seven to eleven times; 113 males, and 235 females, from twelve to twenty times; and 61 males, and 373 females, twenty times and upwards.

It will be seen, that, while at the beginning of the bad way, the number of males committed is vastly greater than that of females, at the close the number of female commitments becomes five times greater than that of males. The utter degradation of a female who has sacrificed purity and decency, forbids much hope of amendment, and we therefore find them regular visitors to the prison. It is added, in some of these reports, that some have a record of more than one hundred commitments.

Among those who have been made to suffer most for their violation of the statutes, were 5 males and 2 females sentenced to death, 3 to penal servitude for life, 2 for more than fifteen years, and so on increasing to 102 to three years servitude. Only two (males) of those sentenced to death were executed. We notice that in all the tables of the time of imprisonment, females are mentioned as of the greatest number. With this class of prisoners, drunkenness is the cause. Between the ages of 21 and 31 years the female prisoners of all kinds are nearly equal to the males.

The table of religious professions shows the number of prisoners of each denomination to be about in proportion to the number in the country.

Of the females committed throughout the nation, 50 per cent. were found wholly illiterate; the males 35 per cent.

Beside the Catholic, Episcopalian and Presbyterian prisoners, who constitute the great mass of those committed, there were 3 males Methodists, 2 males and 1 female Quakers, 1 male Covenanter, 1 male Independent, and 1 male Baptist.

Juveniles—that is, persons under 16 years of age—are specially noticed. In 1864 there were 945 males and 173 females, not exceeding 16 years of age, committed. In 1863 the number was 1,074 males and 257 females—a diminution of 12 per cent. of males, and 33 per cent. of females.

In 1864, 186 prisoners (148 males and 38 females) were transferred to Reformatories. Some of these were rejected for some informalities, and some are still in training.

We find that of the juveniles under 10 years of age, 32 had both parents living, 3 boys both parents dead, 16 fathers dead, 2 mothers dead. Of those between 10 and 16, 542 had both parents living, 145 both dead; 220 fathers dead, 128 mothers dead.

We have thus far made our extracts, or rather our abstracts, from the General Statement of Prison Offences in Ireland. The “Appendix,” as it is called, contains particular returns from every prison, Bridewell, jail and lockup in Ireland, and the examinations from which the statements are made, appear to have been pursued upon a fixed plan, by a man competent to the duty, who understood what was wanted for prison discipline, and who had independence enough to note and censure all deficiencies and excesses, and to comprehend and applaud all successful efforts on the part of the managers of the

particular prisons to make these institutions reformatory as well as penal places.

It would seem that they retain the name of *Bridewell* for some of the prisons in Ireland, and that some of the objectionable features of the old Bridewell of London distinguish these places of punishment. We do not know exactly what are the characteristics of these, but the Report repeats a wish previously expressed, that they may be dispensed with.

In the list of officers, which are called "*extern*"—that is, not residing in the prison—we find the Local Inspector, who visits the place almost every day; a teacher, who usually attends daily, and three chaplains, viz.: one of the Established Church, (Episcopal,) one Protestant (Presbyterian,) and one Roman Catholic. The latter, in some of the counties, has an assistant that attends nearly every day in most of the prisons, and in some they are in daily attendance. The number of visits of every *extern* officer is mentioned in the Report. The salaries of the chaplains vary from \$150 to \$300 a year.

The Report contains a tabular statement of the exact condition of the prison, the number, and character, and age, and offence of the inmates, from what county they came, character of the commitment, results of examination of all the books, repairs of the building, security and accommodation, the exact number and condition of the beds, bedsteads, and articles of bedding, and all the articles of the place; the supply and quality of water, the sewerage, cleanliness, dryness, and ventilation; cost of dietary per head; salaries of internal officers, and what

the keeper does (if anything) besides the duties of his office, with general and particular remarks.

The food, in quality and amount, differs in different parts of the island. We notice that in the County of Antrim Jail the supply of *stirabout*, (mush,) buttermilk, and bread, is ample, and the Report mentions that the quality was excellent, though "the gruel was thin." We see no mention made of meat at any of the meals in the prison.

This dietary, with slight modification, seems to prevail, and we do not notice any meat in the list, yet in the statement of *contracts* we notice that 4½d. per pound is paid for meat. This may be for the officers and employees of the prison. Every article of the dietary is reported on.

The officers of the prison, whether extern or intern, are held to an exact account; and we notice that one chaplain is bitterly censured for absence from duty *one* day, and special notice and commination are made of a surgeon whose whole number of visits did not come quite up to the requirement, though it is not stated that there was any call for his services. With regard to salaries, we notice that the Grand Jury presented some of these as excessive, and in the county thus particularly noticed we find that the Governor gets \$1,250, and the Head Warden \$400. The other men get from \$200 to \$250. The Matron gets \$250, and the female Nurse \$120. These do not seem high salaries, but they were cut down.

We notice that in most of the prisons there are provisions made for secular instruction, though occasionally

the report laments that some deficiency exists. Of several prisons, it is said that no provision is made for the secular instruction of the female prisoners.

It is also stated that one of the keepers, who is capable, instructs the females of one prison, but always in the presence of a matron.

There are punishments for prisoners who violate the rules of the place; these consist of dark cells, occasional withholding of food, and, in one or two instances, of sound floggings.

At every meeting of the Board of Visitors, or Superintendents, the punishment book is submitted to the Board.

The supply of water in the Donegal and Banerance, Bridewell, is obtained alone from the roof; the pump out of order, and the water of the well bad. In such a case it may be considered a benefit to live in a country in which—as it is Ireland—rain is rather the rule than the exception.

Among the crimes for which there are many convictions, was that of sending threatening letters. This act usually earned a sentence of twelve months' hard labor, and hard labor, in the Irish prisons, means *hard labor*—the tread-mill, the crank, and stone-breaking.

The report on the prisons of Cavan county, expresses the conviction that long sentences, in *associate* system, produce rather evil than good. The prisoners become bold and more criminal.

DEBT, in Ireland, seems yet to be treated as a crime, and, in the list of offences, for which incarceration has



been adjudged, we find, in almost every prison, a goodly number under the head of *Debt*.

**INSANITY.**—Great attention is paid to the situation of lunatics confined in the various prisons. Twenty years since, an Act of Parliament took from the Inspectors of Public Prisons the care of the lunatics, and conferred it on a Board of Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums, and this had a tendency greatly to ameliorate the condition of the insane. Large buildings have been erected in various parts of the kingdom for the insane, and in these retreats the inmates “are supplied with nutritious diet, of which animal food, tea, coffee, beer and porter form a part, and are placed under the care of skilful attendants, who have been duly trained to deal with the disease. Even persons who have committed murder, and other great crimes, but who have been pronounced insane by the verdict of a jury, and considered criminal, who after sentence have showed symptoms of insanity, receive a similarly humane treatment.

The above applies to “criminal lunatics,” who seem to be favored above their brothers in misfortune. Those that are arrested upon suspicion that they are becoming deranged, and might do something which would be indictable, are still crowded into the county prisons, and while there undergo sufferings which are unknown to the criminal insane, and are denied that kind of treatment which at this time is universally admitted to be indispensable for the proper management and care of that form of disease.

The account which the Report gives of the treatment

of this unfortunate class of prisoners is most painful. In some prisons they are confined in cells strictly adapted to individual separation; in others they occupy gloomy, unheated and flagged cells, and day-rooms of old jails, from which the criminal prisoners have been removed to properly heated and more suitable new buildings. Often their food is found inadequate and of an improper kind. Altogether this class suffer terribly, and just in proportion as the prisons are adapted to the proper uses of criminals, are they rendered unfit for these insane. This class of prisoners is constantly increasing. In 1860 there were committed to the various prisons in Ireland, 644 of that description of prisoners; in 1864 1,076 were committed.

We cannot give more space to the admirable report of the condition of the prisons in Ireland. It is one of the best, most comprehensive reports we have ever read, and could the prisons of Ireland be at once so changed as to adapt them to the system of separate confinement, they would present, in our opinion, the best *system* in the world. As it is, much is done every year to improve the prisons and the prisoners, and the system of Local Inspectors and Inspectors General gives to the whole such continued connection in the administration as will secure in time, to all, the best improvement of each. The Report of 1863, for the year 1864, is by far the best we have ever read.

One thing we may here remark, that very much of the contents of these Reports, though interesting and instructive to all, are upon subjects that belong more directly to the Board of Prison Inspectors than to the

Society for Alleviating the Condition of Public Prisons, and we cannot doubt that they would suggest to the Directors of our penal houses many improvements. Especially do we wish that the Legislature of our State would place in the Legislative Library a copy of all the prison reports that are made in this country and in Europe; and in order that, such a good work being accomplished, it might prove of public benefit, we most heartily wish that the members of the Legislature would carefully read the Reports, and then inquire how much good they have left undone by neglecting to provide some general system of prison inspection for the State.

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## MAINE.

The Report relative to the State Prison of the State of Maine is a clear narration of its movements, and apparently a fair statement of affairs. A considerable portion of the Warden's Report is occupied with details of the cost and kind of labors, and with general statements, the particulars of which are supplied by the special reports of other officers.

With regard to the numbers, it is stated that there were only 78 convicts at the close of the year 1864, the smallest number since 1854. The cause, which is not stated by the Warden, is evidently the demand for men in the army, or the call for and reward of a certain kind of talent to impose upon soldiers and the Government. No doubt 1866 will fill the cells of the Maine State Prison.

The health of the prisoners has been good, and their conduct most praiseworthy.

Religious services were held by the regular Chaplain and the clergymen of Thomastown, where the prison is, "excepting," says the Report, "that for three Sabbaths the Society of Friends officiated, much to the gratification and, I think, profit of all present."

There is a library, and the cells of the prisoners are furnished with books and writing materials, and lamps, so that they may pass the long evenings in reading, writing, or study, as they choose.

The earnings of the year 1864, were \$20,317.20, and the expenditures \$18,059.56, leaving a balance in favor of the prison of \$2,258.14. Of course the profits or the loss of the prison will vary with the number of laborers or prisoners.

The Warden earnestly recommends some expenditure to make the outside of the prison a little less offensive to taste.

Of 1,556 convicts sent to that prison since 1824, 1,047 have served out their terms, 255 have been pardoned, 50 died, and 15 escaped and were not retaken.

Among the 78 prisoners are 13 sentenced to be hanged.

It may be noticed that some of the convicts of this prison work in the lime quarries. The rules of the prison are very stringent. Of two deaths which occurred in the course of the year, one was from consumption, the other from Bright's disease.

The Chaplain's Report contains complaints, first of the compensation, three dollars per week; secondly, of

the chapel, up three pairs of stairs, the highest not much better than a common ladder, and the room being immediately under the roof, is excessively hot in the summer.

The Chaplain is cordially received by the prisoners, and seems to have produced good effects.

The reports of all the officers concur in recommending more discrimination in the sentences. Some are for quite too short, and others far quite too long a time—both work evil.

We copy the following, as affording an important hint:—

#### STATE OF MAINE.

##### *An Act Relating to the Discipline of the State Prison,*

SECTION 1. The Warden of the State Prison shall keep a record of the conduct of each convict, and for every month that such convict shall appear by such record to have faithfully observed all the rules and requirements of the prison, and shall not have been subjected to punishment, the Warden shall recommend to the executive a deduction from the term of such convict's sentence according to the following rule and proportion: for a convict under sentence for a term of less than three years, one day for each month of good conduct during said term; for a convict whose sentence is for a term of three years or more, and less than five years, two days for each month of good conduct during said term; for a convict whose sentence is a term of five years or more, and less than ten years, three days for each month of good conduct during said term; and for all other convicts except those sentenced to perpetual imprisonment, five days for each month of good conduct during said term.

SECTION 2- The record aforesaid, with the scale of deductions provided in the foregoing section, shall be submitted once in three months by the Warden to the Governor and Council.

[Approved March 10, 1864.]

It will be noticed that the good conduct of the prisoner entitles him to *executive* clemency, but does not give the Warden and Inspectors the power of releasing him.

This is the only report that we have from Maine. It does not appear that there is any condensed report of all the prisons in the State.

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## MASSACHUSETTS.

We have from Massachusetts a goodly-sized octavo, containing the "Annual Report of the Board of State Charities for 1865. In our former reports we made extensive extracts from the statement relative to the public institutions of punishment and charity in Massachusetts. We have no space this year to do more than to mention that all these institutions are placed under the supervision of a "Board of State Charities," whose business it is to look to the administration of each, and harmonize their operations—so that, from the highest to the lowest, there may be a correspondence of action. We do not know that this system has been tried long enough to ensure a permanent approval and establishment, but the Report shows a careful, close watchfulness, and a free censure of what is wrong or unfair, (and in such matters deficiency is a wrong,) and it refers with directness to all the movements in each institution.

The Almshouses are as closely examined and as fully criticised as are the jails, and the asylums, penal and

orphan schools, the insane and the vagrant, are all considered, and their condition well set forth, with censure of the errors in regard to some, and applause of measures and administration which secure new comforts to the sufferer, better views to the erring, and high hopes to the miserable.

Massachusetts has always had advantages over the Middle and Southern States in her municipal divisions, and in the comparative density of her population, and also in the early establishment and constant improvement of her public schools. It has not been found difficult to legislate for the whole; and what is referred to towns (townships) by the Legislature, found corporate bodies and associate efforts ready and able to do for themselves what was not done by State or county responsibility. These county poor-houses would be cheaper, but town provisions more humane and less degrading, in the opinion of both the recipient and the imparters; and the chief points to be noticed in the Massachusetts Report is the complete union of all the institutions of punishment and charity under one supervision. The Report is admirable.



## CONNECTICUT.

The Connecticut Report has reference only to the "State Penitentiary." It is sufficiently full to satisfy the Government and the people of the use and application of the public funds in the direction of that institution,

and also of the discipline of the place. It has, however, less interest in the eyes of the philanthropist than in those of the political economist. One part of the Report is worthy of notice, and that is a statement of the fact that the government of the prison has been much easier and more beneficial since the passage of a law "permitting the good conduct of the convict to be reckoned in his favor, in a consideration of shortening his time of imprisonment."

It would be an additional gratification to know the exact manner in which the new stimulus to good conduct operates on the prisoners, and undoubtedly all who feel an interest in prison discipline will anxiously look for the results of this step in the right direction.

It is a question of much importance, in considering the most effective kind of prison discipline, whether hopes of good will not, in the long run, (if that good is made certain, as the fulfilment of its conditions,) be more beneficial than fears of evil; and on this subject we may add, that when the time of probation is long, and when each month's improvement is counted in excess to the former month, a sort of compound ratio, in reducing the time of punishment, it seems natural—and in Connecticut the experience of the Penitentiary shows it to be just—to conclude that the plan must be beneficial. We may add one more consideration beyond the mere abstinence from wrong doing, and the advancement in well doing, to which the proposed reward relates: the very abstinence from wrong and the advancement to right will create a habit of correctness of moral rectitude which will increase with every month's practice, and which must



count much in the elements of that success which the convict is to achieve when he ceases to be a prisoner.

Such a law as now exists in Connecticut was passed by the Legislature of this State, with a view to practical operation at the Eastern Penitentiary and the County Prison, but the Inspectors of the former institution took exceptions to the principal provisions of the act, as unconstitutional; and in a case presented to the Supreme Court, a decision was had which has suspended further action under the law.

By an Act of Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania, the Inspectors of the County Prison have power to remit the costs of Court, the payment of which is a part of the sentence of the convict. When the prisoner, as it is in most instances the case, is unable to pay them, and as without this remittance the imprisonment would be extended at least one month beyond the time mentioned, and as this is dependent upon persistive good conduct, it operates in the same way, if not to the same extent, as the act which failed, and the operation is deemed advantageous.

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## NEW YORK.

We have received an octavo volume of 365 pages, containing the Twentieth Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the Prison Association of New York, transmitted to the Legislature of the State, February 2, 1865.

The volume commences with a list of officers and

members; then follows the report of the action proper of the Society. These occupy about 24 pages. To this succeeds an *Appendix* of about 358 pages. The volume seems to be an *Appendix*, with a book for a Preface; but however the Committee may have arranged the contents of the volume, they have not failed to give to these contents great interest, even to an ordinary reader. But to one who is seeking information, and searching for facts upon which to found "social science," the Report is of inestimable value.

It will be understood that the Report of the New York Society is really a report not to the Society itself, or the world directly, but to the Legislature of the State, having succeeded in making its importance understood by the Government of the State, and thus securing to itself a means and power of usefulness which "The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons" has not been able to exercise. Perhaps because it is only lately that it has attempted to make itself felt in the administration of the penal institution, beyond the prison and penitentiary in the city of Philadelphia, excepting by its essays, its advice, and the exhibition of its labors at home. The Prison Society of New York City seems to be an element of State Government. Its reports appear as a "Public Document," printed by the Printer of the Legislature.

We learn from the Report that the Executive Committee of the Society did, in the course of the year, visit every jail and penitentiary in the State of New York, and detailed accounts of the investigation appear at full length in the *Appendix*. The investigations en-

able the Committee to respond to the following queries with regard to each prison, viz.: The character of the Building; Its Security; Employment of the Prisoners; Means of Intellectual Culture; Means of Religious Culture; Prison Dictary; Sanitary Condition; Cleanliness; Lighting; Heating; Discipline; Sudden Illness at Night; Separation of the Sexes; Classification.

The investigation seems to have been made with great fidelity, and the results thereof must be interesting and instructive to the Legislature of the State, to whom the report is made.

Albany, the political capital of the State, and the centre of a large and rich county, seems to be almost as poorly provided with prison proprieties as any county. No employment for prisoners, no means of intellectual culture, only mutilated copies of the Bible in the Albany Prison, and none in the jails of Troy and Cohoes, same county.

In several of the counties we notice the voluntary services of a clergyman of the town, but we seldom find stated regular official service. The county newspapers seem to supply a large portion of the reading for the prisoners.

We notice that the prison of Queens county, Long Island, is one that entitles itself to special remark. The cells have no ventilation; water for drinking and washing is carried into the prison in buckets daily; soap is provided, but no towels, and night-tubs are used; vermin abundant, and rats very defiant. The two sexes can see and converse with each other. There is no classification practiced; whites and blacks, tried and

untried ; young and old are indiscriminately thrown together ; little security ; and it is worthy of note that the County Clerks are in Jamaica, the County Matron at Hempstead, and the jail in no place in particular ; it is situated three miles from any town or village.

The Report thus speaks of the jail at Ballston, in the rich and fashionable county of Saratoga :

“ For insecurity of arrangement, for deficiency of sanitary care, for foulness of internal atmosphere, for neglect of moral supervision, for broken walls and ceilings, for insufficiency of water supply, for expensiveness of warming, for facilities and frequency of escape, facility of communication with the outside, for defect of classification, for neglect of county officials, and a positive disbelief on the part of the jailor in the value or utility of any attempts at reformation of those submitted to their custody, the jail probably surpasses any in the State.”

Severe as is the above general condemnation, it seems to be fully sustained by the particulars furnished. And after giving statements of the miserable state of morals in the place, the Report adds : “ Vicious as the moral government of the jail is thus seen to be, its material arrangement and condition are no better.”

The Report shows that the county prisons of the State of New York are generally very deficient in what would make them *safe* penal establishments, and eminently wanting in all that would enable them to become reformatory.

In speaking of “ classification” in West Chester county, adjoining New York city, the Report says : “ No classification whatever is maintained. There can be little improvement in our common jails until the prisoners are **ENTIRELY ISOLATED, AND RIGIDLY KEPT IN SEPARATE CELLS.**”

It was our intention to make liberal extracts from the statement relative to the different county prisons of New York, but we lack space; and perhaps we might say that, having forborne to publish at large the report of two gentlemen appointed by our own society to investigate the affairs of all the prisons and almshouses in this State, we could scarcely be expected to give the result of inquiries in another State.

The New York Report seems to us to be one of the best most complete of any that we have seen in this country, while it partakes largely of the minuteness and sufficiency of those French and Irish Reports to which we have given so much space in this number of our journal.

On the subject of Diet we felt some interest, as we know that the State of New York, like our own, is blest with what would be an abundance for all, if it could be shared by all.

We do not, we confess, like the two meals a day that make up the dietary of many of the New York prisons, but it would appear that there is a generous supply of food in some of the prisons. Take, for instance, Rockland county: for breakfast, potatoes, salt beef, rye coffee, and rye bread; dinner, salt pork, potatoes, and rye bread; supper, mush and molasses and bread, and the prisoners are allowed to have as much as they want. In some of the counties the fare is better, with a greater variety. In the Lewis County Prison the dietary is three meals a day, good fare—meat, vegetables, bread, *butter*, and no drink but water. We notice that in several of the prisons “bread and *butter*” are mentioned.

Butter, at the price it has recently brought in the city markets, must be a costly condiment in prison. Something, perhaps, depends upon the quality of the article. Those who have visited the interior of New York or of our own State, have learned that the best quality of butter is not always consumed in the county in which it is made.

Perhaps it may be added that every county does not produce the best quality of butter; and it is scarcely probable that, with butter at seventy-five cents a pound, the county prison would be a successful competitor with hotels and rich families for the acquisition of the best quality of that article.

Experience in prisons, as mere public institutions, where large numbers of persons are to be fed, shows that plain food is better than that which is richer. A variety in the simple quality, and regularity in serving it, are plans which yield the greatest advantages for an established dietary.

The Report of of the Agent for the New York Society is exceedingly interesting and instructive, partaking, of course, of the general characteristics of the statement of Mr. MULLEN, the Agent of this society.

We are struck with the facts set forth in an abstract of the report upon the jails, viz: "On the whole, the Committee have to report—*no employment for prisoners in any jail in the State.*"

To us it seems that the State of New York, like the State of Pennsylvania, has been giving an undue propor-

tion of its legislative care to the penitentiaries to the neglect of the jails.

Rum, parental neglect, over-crowded population of the jails themselves, are set down as fruitful sources of the crimes that crowd the prisons and disgrace society. The New York Society does not make it a part of their rules to recommend the separate confinement of prisoners. But their Committees give the result of their observations with freedom and candor, and these all seem to tend to that conclusion. They are evidently seeking without any fear, lest they should find. They ask: "What is truth?" and await the momentous answer.



## VIRGINIA.

In the summer of 1865, our fellow-member, JEREMIAH WILLETTS, went into the State of Virginia, and found an opportunity to visit the prisons in Richmond and its vicinity. This was to him only a continuance of a good work, as he had, the previous year, been one of the Committee of this Society to visit and report upon the county prisons and almshouses in this State. The work which he assumed received the approval of the Governor of the State of Virginia, and, at the request of that functionary, Mr. WILLETTS made a report of his labors, a copy of which we print, as an evidence of the spirit which per-

vades those who would alleviate the miseries of public prisons, and as demonstrating the situation of prison affairs in the States that have been the seats of the civil war.

The action of Mr. WILLETTS may not be regarded as a part of the proceedings of the Society, or of its Acting Committee, but it is the movement of one of the members of both Society and Committee, and has the sanction of both. It is good when members of Philadelphia associations can be instant in season, and out of season, doing good,—nay, “doing good” makes all acts in season.

We subjoin Mr. WILLETTS’ report, or letter to Gov. PIERPONT.

#### TO F. H. PIERPONT, GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA.

I have availed myself of the permission thou gavest me to visit prisons, &c. Have visited the following :

The Penitentiary I found under the control of a military guard, who kindly received me. Two of the old officers, remaining, informed me of the manner in which it was conducted before the evacuation of Richmond. The Prison was conducted on the silent system : working together in extensive factories, in the daytime, and locked in separate cells at night, and on the Sabbath. They have no moral instructor, no library for the use of prisoners, nor any care taken to classify them. The law required a full separation of the sexes, yet they communicated through the soil pipes. Average number two hundred and fifty, before the war,—fifteen females. There was an infirmary, which is now burned, with the keeper’s apartments, and the general destruction of engines and manufacturing implements. The inmates were all liberated, by their own act of violence, at the time of the evacuation of the city, since which the military guard have captured about



seventy with twenty other convicts, now numbering ninety, all thrown together, without work or discipline. The county jail was unoccupied.

In the city jail, I found forty-six locked up for want of a necessary pass from their employer. I was told they numbered one hundred and nine in the morning. They were indebted for their release to persons employing them and getting passes. Many of them were much excited. I hope they may learn wisdom from what they suffer from their mistaken views of freedom.

At Goochland, the jail was burned; it had been constructed on a plan superior to many county jails, with separate apartments for the sexes, both in the building and yard, and some care taken to classify the criminals. There was no employment given, nor any system of instruction, except by individual benevolence.

Their Court-house was spared; a neat building, with jury-rooms, &c; but now their civil institutions were all suspended, and the military guard had been removed the morning which I visited it, the 13th ult., yet all seemed quiet and orderly.

At Petersburg, I was shown the jail by A. DONNAN, a notary public. A military officer had it in charge; he seemed to have no knowledge of how it was conducted prior to the evacuation of the city. It is old, and strongly built, with two enclosed yards, with high wall, through which a shell had entered and exploded within. The jail is three stories high, with four large rooms. On each story the basement was dark and gloomy, where the criminals of a high grade are kept. There were thirty-six prisoners—no females; they appear to be thrown together without employment, classification, or moral instruction.

In Dinwiddie county I learned, by an intelligent farmer living near the Court-house, that there was no local government established there; that even the steward of the almshouse had left it, the paupers having the control.

It must appear, from the foregoing disclosures, that the principal object in Penitentiary incarceration has, heretofore, been to so place the convict, for a few years, that he may not deplete on his honest neighbor, and contribute most to his own support, not fully considering that associating the young with the old offenders is increasing that class,

to be thrown on the public at the expiration of sentence, ripe scholars in their profession, through the medium of our appliances for their reform. I think it is evident there is a defect in the administration. In the reconstruction of the Penitentiary and its discipline, it becomes the philanthropist to aim at higher standard—the reformation of the criminal. The little expended here is returned to him four-fold in security of person and property, and the consciousness of having done what he could to save an erring brother. I feel free to suggest that there be a Moral Instructor and Teacher appointed to instruct all, from cell to cell, separately, on the Sabbath, and that each prisoner be placed in a separate cell, for a short period, on first entering the prison, to afford the moral instructor an opportunity to impress his mind with good counsel. A well-selected library would contribute to the same end in view; and could there be an association of benevolent individuals formed in the city, as a Prison Society, such as exist in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and in England, such a society, having legislative authority to visit the prisons at all times, may do much in raising the prisoner in self-respect, and advancement in reform, and assist him when discharged. To provide places for them, and guide them in their new course of life.

The “Report of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons,” accompanying this, will more fully describe the usefulness of such an association.

Very respectfully thy friend,

JEREMIAH WILLETTTS.

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## REMARKS UPON THE REPORTS.

We give an abstract of what is set forth in these Reports, more in detail than may seem to suit our annual publication, but far less minute than we could desire

had we more space at command. A knowledge of the prison discipline of all Christian countries is desirable; something may be learned by which to correct or improve our own; something may be discovered of error that may startle by its opposition to right; something that is decidedly wrong that may yet be found in some way connected with the principles by which our own prisons are managed. It is good to imitate the correct movements of others; it is excellent to avoid the errors which are as much in our pathway as in theirs. In both cases it is almost necessary that we should know the right and the wrong of each, that we may follow the one and avoid the other.

FRANCE.—What has greatly pleased us in the Report upon the French Prisons, is the reports themselves, their thorough minuteness, the evidence of a careful searching, and a fair exposition; the details of all that is consistent with or required by the law that authorizes the exposition. It seems to us that in these particulars they approach perfection. They are creditable to all the officers that make the returns of these several establishments; they are creditable to the Director of the Administration of the Prisons, and they are honorable to the Government to whom they are made.

It appears to us that the system adopted by the French Government is improved and carried out by those to whom the execution is confided, with a most wonderful fidelity, and so we are bound to laud the humanity that has thus far been manifest in the administration of the prisons, and especially the admirable principle of order

that appears in the report of the proceedings throughout the Empire, in regard to the conduct of the prisoners.

But while we approve of the French Report, and of much that is reported, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the whole system seems more calculated to inflict punishment on the guilty at the least possible expense, than to improve the prisoner by the opportunity of thought and resolve, and by means of directing that thought and carrying out that resolve. There are religious and moral instructors, it seems, in most of these prisons, and these "Aumoniers," or Chaplains, undoubtedly labor faithfully, and discharge all the duties of their appointment. But it is evident that, in their absence, there is more opportunity for the enemy to "sow tares" than there is for the sunshine and dew of silence and reflection, to promote the growth of the true seed.

Rest and quiet are as necessary to induce assimilation in the moral as in the physical pabulum, and in the French prisoners they cannot have the retirement they need in their penal abode, while associated with others who may have less inclination to think. Nay, men of habits so bad as to lead them into prison life, are usually ashamed of anything like reflection and good resolve when with their fellow criminals, and therefore we cannot think that the labors of the moral and religious teachers in the French public prisons are productive of the good that, under other circumstances, we mean with prisoners in separate confinement, they would be likely to produce. They generally commence

their labors too late to produce the benefits which they would confer; and while they are doing all they can, and hoping all things, in the spirit of true charity, one evil associate of the object of their labors in half an hour undoes the work of half a year. And a false pride yields to ridicule what virtue was fast gathering from the labors of private philanthropy.

Under the appropriate head we have noticed the results of careful observation in New York, Great Britain and Ireland, as to the value of separate confinement of prisoners, and the opinion is gaining ground, where it is not already well established, that little or no moral benefit can be hoped from imprisonment when the convict is allowed to associate with others in his own situation.

In France we do not find that this view has been taken in the new colonies or farm prisons for men, boys, and females—they intimate, at least, no disposition to change the social to the separate confinement. France is making much improvement in the administration of her prisons, but she needs a radical change in the system. Our information from the Continent of Europe is not official beyond France and her neighboring colonies.

IRELAND.—It appears to us that Ireland has the best plan of prison government, punishment, and moral direction, of any country in Europe; and it appears also that the views of improvement in that country extend beyond the administration of affairs, to the improvement of the system itself.

ITALY.—In the south of Europe, and especially in the south of Italy, while every prison has its means of religious worship, and has daily religious services according to the rites of the Church that is dominant there, it does not appear that any great and organized efforts are made towards improving the condition of the prisoners. Wealth is not abundant, and where it is in any large amount, its possessor has such a great number who, because they are of his "house," must not bring disgrace on his name by labor, and therefore appeal to him for assistance, that little is left from that source, for public charity of our kind. But in every part of the peninsula of Italy there are immense sums invested for hospitals of almost every kind, for schools, churches, and wedding gifts.

GENERAL.—Those who would present to readers and inquirers the condition of prisoners on the Continent of Europe, and more especially would institute comparisons between their discipline and the discipline of those in this country, and illustrate the real and probable effect of treatment on both sides of the Atlantic, must, to make their labor useful, comprehend the different social and political conditions of the two divisions, and comprehend the influence of life upon those on one side, who are to go into a world where their condition, if not unalterable, is at least so fixed that they cannot hope to rise, however easy it may be to sink. And on the other side upon those who feel that, though restrained for a long season from social intercourse, and kept out of that current into which the business men of the time throw

themselves for success, they have yet time and means to rise, and the patronage of the philanthropist that soothes their affliction in prison, and speeds with blessing and assistance their departure, is no bond to keep them down, and compel them to humiliating inactivity. They will feel the weight which their own consciousness of wrong doing and the mortification of penal infliction ensure, but they need not, of necessity, contend against or shrink from the withering rebuke of the moral Pharisee that writes upon his broad phylactery the "*procul este profani*," and sits down in conscious innocence of crime, or unconsciousness that his sanctimony has not saved him from suspicion. It is a great blessing, it is an occasion, perhaps, of self-felicitation, that some have escaped the snares into which cupidity so often leads, and it is a source of pride to children that in the world's temptations a father has escaped unscathed. But it is also beautiful to watch the course of the man convicted and repentant of crime, who is toiling and contending against the difficulties of his unhappy position, but who keeps honor and truth in view, and is "nobly bent on virtue." That which causeth joy in Heaven is not without interest on earth, and good men may felicitate themselves upon the results of their own unobtrusive labor, while they discern in the successful mechanic or business man, or politician, "the sinner that repenteth."

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NOTE TO PART II.

In the second line of the 180th page, occurs, "*the number of commitments is about 2,000 per year.*" This is part of a sentence, the whole of which should have been omitted.

## PART THIRD.

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### DISTURBING CAUSES, WITH REMEDIES.

The Acting Committee, in reporting to the Society, and through the Society to that portion of the world that takes an interest in its labors, what it has attempted and what it has accomplished, feels that it has good precedent for such an enlargement of its annual statements as may include distinct reference to some of the "disturbing causes," and also to what may be regarded as a preventive of the vices which society deplores—vices which, when they mature into crimes, give employment to the magistracy and the courts, and supply labors of philanthropy to those who would improve the condition of public prisons.

Every man with leisure to observe, and sensibility to deplore, must be struck with the growing prevalence of vices and the augmented multitude of crimes that are recorded in the daily papers; and those who have opportunity, are fearfully struck with the great number of criminals that reach the public prison without any public record of their dereliction, a number so great, and yet the individuals so little connected, as lead to the



most painful reflections that only a very small part of the crimes and vices meet with public exposure; only a small proportion of criminals are visited with punishment.

What is the cause?

We are not prepared to give an explicit answer; but, undoubtedly, the great, the ruling, the ostensible cause is Intemperance—that is, a greatly increasing use of intoxicating liquors—drunkenness, habitual drunkenness. On this painful subject we shall dwell at large, at the risk of repeating ideas offered last year and previously, upon the terrible epidemic. But can too much be said by way of prevention?

We do not mean to write essays on Social Science, but we do desire to present for consideration subjects that connect themselves with the labors of this Society, and which may, if properly treated here, induce some of our members (even though in that labor not acting for the Society,) to undertake, in the spirit of our Society, and with the approbation of our Society, the good work of preventing the miseries which it is ours to alleviate.

It is not the prescribed duty of this Board to inquire into the causes of the vices and crimes for which so many come to add to the labors and the expenses of the prison; but, if vice and crime should ever reach such a state as to enforce a special inquiry as to the best means of repressing them, it may aid the investigation to have some record of their progress.

It cannot be doubted that prostitution and intoxication have multiplied in this city far beyond the increase of population, and that the number of houses devoted to

the means of impurity and drunkenness has been augmented almost in a compound ratio to the multiplication of inhabitants. The attempt to diminish the amount of drunkenness by licensing houses for the sale of intoxicating drinks, was founded on the idea of regulating an evil that could not be entirely repressed, and by permitting, in some places, the sale of liquors to repress it in others, and to regulate it in all. The intent and the plan were good. Since excess in the use of intoxicating liquors is a great public evil, and the use cannot be entirely repressed, it was wise to devise and carry out a plan by which the sale could be controlled. And the right confined to sell moderately, created a power to repress or punish excess. But the execution of the plan failed. The business of licensing public houses has come to be a means of supplying the exchequer of the city, and increasing the compensation of public officers, so that the penalties which are incurred by the sale of liquors is not for exceeding in amount that which the law may deem reasonable, but for not propitiating the law by paying for the right to sell an unlimited amount to any who will purchase. It is not the drunkards that are made, but the licenses that are not paid for that constitutes the offence which is recognized and punished. Pay the price of a license, and every man may display his red curtain, or proclaim his *business* by that species of ground-glass which hides his customers.

It is evident that the idea of preventing the retail of an excessive amount of intoxicating liquor, by licensing the sale, has failed, and failed by a departure from the plans by which alone success could be secured.

Money and not morals, profit and not temperance, have come to be the consideration; and we do not know that it is much better in any other part of the world where the use of intoxicating liquors is general. But, abroad, there is one motive for granting licenses to sell spirits, or permitting the sale without license, which does not rule in the United States. In Europe the sale of the liquor is the immediate means of supplying one family with bread, and so it is permitted, because the channels of employment are few and crowded, and, if the liberty to sell was withheld, those who looked to the sale for food might have to resort to the almshouse. It is true that those who are permitted to purchase are wasting the means of personal independence; but it may be doubted whether, in most of those countries, the stability of the government is not much dependent upon a want of liberty in the people, and hence that which weakens the moral force of the masses strengthens the power of ruler. It is true that the philosopher might think it were better to lead men than drive asses,—but it is easier to drive asses than it is to lead men who do not like the conductor, nor approve of the path or the end which he favors.

We do not mean to carry our remarks into the field of politics; but political economy, perhaps national politics are concerned in the effect which vice and crime are likely to produce—likely now, because we know the terrible effects they have produced. And we are in more danger in this country than they were in Europe, where terrible convulsions were the consequences of general decay of morals. There the strong arm of government could

restrain till it became palsied by its own vice, or broken by the violence which vice produces in the governed. There the sovereign, the king, might for a time exercise restrictive power in the use of the Divine Right; here the people, the sovereigns, know their own power, and, if they become debased, they may exercise it to a terrible and fatal extent.

The two prevailing vices, to which we have referred above, are weakening the moral power of the laws and their administration,—lessening the physical power and endurance of the people. Licensing the sale of liquors has not prevented drunkenness. Would public legislative interference in the direction of impurity be equally ineffectual to good? We dare not say. We can only assert that vice—the vices especially to which we have referred, are on the constant increase; they are not confined to places consecrated to impurity, set apart as the appropriate location of what is most degrading: they overspread their limits; they come, like the plagues of Egypt, up into

“Places sacred to neatness and repose.”

Our social meetings are disturbed by dissipation,

“And prostitution in our public walks”

disgusts the virtuous by its impudence, or familiarizes the young to its prevalence. We shall not *now* speak further of the last-named evil, but proceed to notice particularly some demands upon public consideration, beginning with the great national demoralizing habit.

## INTEMPERANCE.

Frequent visits to any of the prisons must lead a reasonable man to inquire after the causes which deprive so many human beings of the great enjoyments of life, viz : “liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Beings are there incarcerated for whom this life and its associations must be everything, as they seem to have no thoughts of death, and to cultivate no hope in eternity ; yet they really throw away all chances of enjoyment in the prison, while they seem to give no heed, either by fear or hope, either by preparation or anticipation, to the future.

What brings so many of our fellow-beings into such a miserable circumscription ? What is the cause ? And, if that cause be found, what is the remedy for the suffering individuals, and what is the preventive ? That preventive, whatever it may be, is the remedy for society, as it will be the salvation for the individual sufferers.

We find, in the County Prison instances of the lowest degradation into which human beings are led by vice and crime,—we do not say *sin*, as that is a theological consideration,—and, while it involves both vice and crime, includes also that of which society—at least the laws of society—take little account till it has developed itself into vice or called for punishment as a crime. The sins of omission—the sins of the heart—the sins of the affection—the sins of thought—these rarely come to be the subjects of public consideration or legal inquiry till they have taken form, till they manifest themselves in some

*overt* act that often astonishes the world by what is denominated a sudden fall of some individual, till then regarded as of exemplary virtue and great practical piety, while, perhaps, the offender has been suffering a decay of virtue for years, and has allowed one dominant but secret vice to demoralize his whole system, till he stands astonished at the want of discernment in the public to discover what he knew to be working within him as a motive of action, and which he has felt could not escape public detection. These enter into the subject which we have now in hand, and we shall approach their consideration when we shall have called up the ruling vices of this day, and, it would seem, of all days, if not of all places.

We have said that the county prison presents instances of the greatest, or perhaps, we ought to say, of the lowest degradation of human beings, and certainly the Female Department shows that there is

“In the lowest deep a lower deep.”

And therefore we have thought it proper to make inquiries at the doors of the cells of those representatives of vice and crime and degradation, as to the cause of their condition—the cause, remote and proximate—and hearing their statements and comparing their condition, to inquire elsewhere whether there are not within the reach and use of society some means to check the evil, to roll back the tide of infamy that overflows all the limits which a sense of public propriety once prescribed, and thus in time to rid society of those evils which are its curse, its bane; and we have hope—not that we have

found the remedy, not that we are going to take our stand upon the borders of this terrible flood, and turn it back, or even say to it, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no further, and here shall thy proud waves be staid." We have no such expectation, but we have a *hope*, that by exposing the prevalence of certain evils, by showing how, of themselves, alone and unmixed, they are public curses, and how, in addition, they are the source of most of all the other moral evils of life, and how they mingle in all and make them worse; and especially how the neglect of the good, the thoughtlessness of the humane, and the indifference of the philanthropic, permit the evil to take root and flourish, till there is scarcely a question of eradication, only of correction and direction—by showing that we hope to awaken public attention, and turning it to some means of alleviation, some attempt to save it only from the contagion of these "miserable offenders;" to save also those "miserable offenders" from their villainess, and to hedge up the way of those who have little power of resistance, and to keep them from companionship with the wicked of their own sex, "whose feet go down to death, whose steps take hold on hell."

Stop at the cell door of the depraved female, of those, indeed, who, though imprisoned, are not yet utterly depraved, and inquire why they are prisoners. One will tell you that her husband beat her, and that for words provoked by blows, thrust her into prison on the charge of "abuse and threats." Another, that she was seeking a lodging at night, and was arrested and imprisoned for "vagrancy." Another, that she had a little dispute "with a *friend*," and words led to a single blow, and she

was committed for "assault and battery." Others will say that they were quiet and orderly in their "own hired house," but that a few young gentlemen came in and made some noise, and so they were all arrested for keeping a "disorderly house." And others, that for only singing in the street they had been snapped up by some policemen on a *raid*, and were committed as "disorderly persons." Others again, when a charge of larceny is made, had only pawned a few things, without at the time knowing whose they were.

Examine the cases of all these a little more closely, "and closer viewed," it will be seen that intoxication was the cause, remote or proximate, of the acts for which they were committed. And now the man who is tried even for homicide, pleads insanity as the direct cause, and *proves* that his insanity renders him unaccountable, and therefore crimeless, because the act is only the natural and temporary consequence of a drunken debauch. Murder, larceny, arson, burglary, theft, violence, vagrancy, all wash their hands in innocence, and refer their misfortune to drunkenness, and drunkenness is not a *crime*—only a *vice* in the poor, only an *error* in the rich, a *fault* in the ignorant, a *failing* in the learned!!!

Drunkenness, then, the intemperate use of intoxicating liquors, lies at the bottom of *almost* every crime that is recorded on our Aldermen's dockets, or that reaches to the dignity of a trial in the Court of Quarter Sessions—not *all*, we know—not *all*—but failing to boast itself as the cause of all crimes, intemperance continues to become the resort of the criminal, and may boast that



if its power were not to be cited as the promoter of felony or impurity, it had become the constant and necessary resort of the wretch when his crime was achieved. It is one of those vices, it is *the* vice, that, failing in a few instances to entitle itself to the pater-nity of a few other vices and crimes, revenges itself for that failure by becoming the foster-father of all.

Would the limits of this article permit, we should cite instances to prove our conclusion to be just: that drunkenness in this country is the immediate or mediate cause of most of the misery that is around us, and that nine out of every ten in prison must refer their incarceration to intemperance. We recollect that two years since, we noticed the amount of imprisonment in other countries, especially the south of Europe, and that we added the assertion that the people there are temperate—drunkenness being of the rarest occurrence, and hence it might be inferred that, as people get into prison *there* without drunkenness, so *here* the same, or nearly the same, amount of imprisonment might be found as exists there, even were our people as temperate as are the Italians.

That is worthy of thought, worthy of an attempt at explanation. In the city of Philadelphia large numbers of the people are imprisoned, and it is said that they are condemned for drunkenness, or for acts which drunkenness produces. Therefore intemperance is to be condemned as the cause.

In Naples, large numbers are imprisoned; and the city does not furnish two cases of habitual intemperance; and the drunken man is not punished, unless a soldier.

Why then should it be inferred that intoxicating drinks are chargeable with the imprisonments *here*, when imprisonment is so common in "temperate" countries? or, who shall say that if all use of intoxicating liquors was completely abolished in this city, who shall say that the cells of the county prison would not be as crowded as are the prison chambers in Naples? In other words, who shall say that other causes than intoxication would not fill the prison in Philadelphia as they do in Naples, and the same causes which operates *there* produce the same effects *here*?

We answer that we have no hope of emptying the cells of any prison in our cities. One crime and one vice can exist without others; and the ingenuity of man will contrive means to stimulate to a violation of the law and gratify unsanctified passions. But we know that vice and crime subsist by aliment, and that "where there is no wood, there the fire goeth out," and the withdrawal of the principal part must leave a decayed flame, though

"Ev'n in our ashes live their wonted fires."

But, to consider the proposition of the imprisonments in Philadelphia and that in Naples. Here it is abundant with drunkenness, and, therefore, it is said that drunkenness is the cause. There imprisonment is abundant, and no drunkenness prevails. And, therefore, it may be argued that we should have the same amount of imprisonments that we now have were we to be as free from "intemperance" as are the Neapolitans. That would certainly be "inferable" if the same causes existed

here that abound there. But we lack one or two of the great influencing circumstances.

In Naples the natives are born unto castes as fixed as if the decree of the Almighty had established them, excepting that the lower or more numerous class may have its circle enlarged, and its number increased by contribution from those above, but "to ascend is hard and rare." Enterprise, and the full exercise of capital, which gives life to a community, are checked by the customs of the people and the policy of the government, hence the poor have no employment but that which the wants of society render absolutely necessary, and the vast number of those who are to compete for their employment places the compensation at the lowest imaginable rates. Able-bodied men will work sixteen, and often eighteen, hours per day, for sixteen cents, and "find themselves," and quarrel, and sometimes get into prison "for breaking the peace," in their earnestness to obtain employment at such a rate of compensation. Of course, drunkenness is rather a costly luxury with such people. And flesh meat needs scarcely the protection of the church to prevent its use by the poor on days of abstinence. Meat is a rarity, in the mouths of a large portion of the people, from January to December. But, if these people do not get drunk, they get into prison, and when there, they remain till they shall have earned the cost of arrest and support. *Small pilferings* are the besetting sins of the poor, and political cabals the offenses of the—of the others,—and brigandage and robberies the resort of licentious discharged soldiers. It seems scarcely conceivable that the prisons of Naples should have tenants to

any considerable number, if the people of that city and district had the employment and pay which can, at all times, be had in Philadelphia. But, as such "pay" would be a luxury to the Neapolitans, there is no telling what would be the consequences. But among the rich and the liberal, in that city, a free use of intoxicating liquors of any kind is rare. The miserable water of the place renders almost necessary the use of their weak red wines; but their wines are not of a quality to generate much of an appetite for them, nor of strength sufficient to produce intoxication.

It may be added, that while many prisoners are found in the capitol of the two Sicilies, the smaller cities furnish fewer occupants to the poorly-constructed prisons.

Our citizens are generally supplied with occupation, and those who must earn their living "by the sweat of their brow," have generally that which ensures both sweat and bread. Here no excuse can be reasonably made for theft, and no legitimate wants may be pleaded in extenuation of the violation of any laws. A beastly appetite for strong drinks is cultivated, it is feared, in the infancy of a portion of our people, and hence the prevailing indulgence of the young, and the provocation to violence in the older. It is the sin of our people: it is that which, if a foreigner were to select some fault of character by which the inhabitants of various countries should be designated, he would ascribe to the people of the United States. We know it—all know it—all confess it. Some have made attempts to check the evil. In some States severe laws have been enacted to prohibit, entirely the sale, and even to endeavor to prevent

the use of intoxicating drink. Societies have been formed and rules established ; vows have been registered and pledges given. The halls have resounded with eloquence, grown almost intemperate in its advocacy of temperance and denunciation of intoxication. The streets have been crowded with the open professors of the rules of total abstinence, and yet the curse of hard drinking, and of bad drinking, is upon us. The reaction seemed, for a time, to lead to the belief that abstinence only whetted the appetite, or, that when the excitement of temperance efforts failed, that a resort to intoxicating liquors was almost natural. The pulpit, which once resounded with the thunders of denunciation against the particular sin of drunkenness, seems now to have compromised with the practisers of the fault, and to have restored the crime to its old category, and left it to be included in the general catalogue of wrong-doing, as if it were not the duty of all who teach, besides the reproof of all errors, to denounce, with special emphasis, "the sin that doth most easily beset us."

We do indeed hear talk against intemperance ; but we discover no means yet for reducing the evils. It is said by many, that the cultivation of the grape and the manufacture of low-priced wines would tend to diminish the use of whisky and the villainous compounds that fill the bottles and decanters in the groggeries ; and the cases of France and Italy are cited. But Germany also produces cheap wines, and, also, has to blush for the amount of intemperance among her people ; though it can scarcely be doubted that a wine-drinking people furnish fewer drunkards than a brandy or a whisky-drink-

ing community. But, we may add, that still a smaller number of drunkards is found among water-drinking people.

But the difference in causes between the imprisonment in the United States and that of Naples was under consideration. Here it is confessedly drunkenness—there it would seem to be pilfering from absolute want, and hostility to a government that, by inactivity and want of sympathy, discourages that enterprise which produces and rewards industry, and thus prevents want. *Here*, if drunkenness should be abolished, we might hope for a great diminution of imprisonment. Revolutions *there* produce little else than political melioration and military activity, and so we do not suppose that the number of prisoners is greatly diminished; besides, we must wait generations at least for any considerable effect upon the morals of the people. Habits that are general are not easily nor rapidly changed; they remain in antagonism with the new circumstances, and only yield when a new race, with manners, customs and expectations formed upon the new state of things, shall come up, moulded upon other principles and influenced by other social and political institutions.

So here even the prevalence of entire abstinence from intoxicating liquors in whole communities did not produce (though it was producing) the benefit promised. Two causes, at least, operated against the fulfilment of the promise of the sanguine temperance apostles, and one cause was the succedanium which the pharmacopœia supplies for the effects of intoxicating liquors. Those who had drunk for the love of drink, or for a mere love

of sociality, generally maintained a good report among the brethren of the temperance organization; but those who had drunk from a love of the effects of liquor, missed that nervous exhilaration which constituted their happiness, and though faithful to the pledges against all uses of spirituous liquors, they were not proof against the temptation to exhilarate and make themselves temperately happy by a resort to opium and its extracts and compounds.

Another cause, and that which is most worthy the thought of a philosophical philanthropist, is the debasing effect which the habits of intoxication has produced in the manners and morals of the people. This is much greater, and much less eradicable, than is usually considered by those who gave themselves up to temperance reform, and those who either directly opposed such a reform or were willing to find in the conduct of the reformed something upon which a censure of temperance could be sustained.

Drunkenness is an evil extending far beyond the mere temporary loss of mental and physical power during the time of intoxication; it is bad enough in that effect, but the habit of procuring liquor by subterfuge, by misrepresentation, by a constant habit of deception, debases the man, and accustoms him so persistently to try to be what he is not, to seem to be what he knows he is not, that a true self-respect, so necessary to real enjoyment, is terribly debased in those who maintain some respect for the world, while they are slaves to their appetites. Others soon get over the sense of allegiance and obligations of obedience to the

established opinions of society, and drink whenever they can obtain the liquor, and are as shameless in their customs, and as regardless of the exposures of intoxication, as if drinking was the great duty of life, and intoxication the evidence of a faithful discharge of that obligation. He who would hope to make a reformation in either of the above cited class of drunkards, has to overcome the habits of deception which the former has acquired, and to correct the misconception which the shameless conduct of the other class exhibits; and then he will have to purge society of the evils which the long toleration of intoxication has nurtured, not merely in the persons of the offenders, but in the habits of the temperate, and their sympathy with the intemperate.

In any attempts to purge society of any established *vice*, the failure has usually resulted from a want of appreciation of the influence which that *vice* has had upon those who have not been vicious, and hence a want of persistency in means to secure the victory which seems to have been achieved. If in the city of Philadelphia there are ten thousand male and female drunkards, drunkards by their own admission, or by the concurrent testimony of most who know them, (and that all will admit as a low figure for that important class,) will any say how many thousands there are who are just "on the brink of being born" into that separate world of inebriation? Will any say how many thousands occupy the outer and receding circles in this approximate classification? Persons who have seldom been drunk, and who as seldom go to bed entirely sober. From this last class, from these embryo drunkards, comes the hostility, or in



that class is found the obstacle, to temperance measures. The ten thousand drunkards will, with proper effort, yield a small contribution from their number to the ranks of perfect temperance; the remainder will drink while they can procure the means of intoxication, and then *die*. They are like mill-dams on the country streams, only divert therefrom the current, and the waters are wasted away. Stop the progress of temperate towards intemperate drinking, and the host of drunkards will diminish into insignificance.

But who shall check the downward progress of the mountain stream by which the mill-race is filled? Who (still more difficult work)—who shall stay the downward course of the habitual drinker who has seldom been drunk? This class of habitual drunkards derive not more their numbers from the temperate or the private drinker, than they do their argument for drink from the habits of those who, maintain respectability in society, do frequently that which, if done more frequently, causes the misconduct and disgrace of the drunkard.

We are constantly ministering to the effects of the evil—putting into coventry the rich, and into prison, the poor drunkard. But who has searched out and seized upon the sources of the disease? Who has followed up the stream, and, by persistent labor, by indefatigable exertions, made the attempt to correct—to purify the fountain? Who knows where the fountain is, and what will work its cure? The prophet of Syria found not only the cause of the poison in the springs of his country, but he discovered and applied a remedy. He healed the waters

with salt. Where is the prophet that can show the origin of the evil of intemperance, that can detect the virus that lurks in the springs whence flow the morals of the people, and then apply a cure? Temperance may have directed the excitement of one pair of nerves to another pair—from rum to opium, and from opium to enthusiasm—till one disease has been scarcely more tolerable than the other. Societies have been formed to cherish and perpetuate temperance in the use, or rather, abstinence from, the use of intoxicating liquors. These have been too often suffered to sink into instruments of the party politician, who has secured his election by appeals to temperance men, in behalf of temperance; and he has celebrated his success by orgies that intemperance itself would blush to find charged to its account.

We want patience and perseverance. We need to comprehend the character of the people whom we would convert and keep converted, and we need to understand the influences of institutions that allow liberty to every individual, even though he cannot distinguish between that blessing and the other extreme, which is licentiousness. But especially do we need to comprehend the effect of sudden riches and easy gains upon those who have not been used to the responsibilities of wealth, or the lesson which unusual compensation permits. We need to study more fully the means, if they exist, of assimilating the daily received thousands, who come from abroad, with the different material which are of our own number. Labor is a curse abroad, much as it is desired *there*; it is regarded as a curse by those who seek it with earnestness and perform it with diligence, because it never does

more than supply the means of strengthening the system to additional labor ; and the paradise of such persons is some place or position where bread and clothing can be obtained without such toil ; any position, or any occupation that, without hard labor, secures only what hard labor has hitherto produced, is the ambition of the laborer abroad ; and, when he arrives in this country, he too readily perceives that he who ministers to the appetites of his fellows soon becomes their master, and that the selling of liquor is at once as profitable as labor, without the drudgery, and, in time, secures an influence which is desirable both socially and politically.

Those, then, who would check the master evil of our country have something to do beyond preaching. They have to think of all the causes which have produced, and are continuing, the great curse of intemperance ; and, if they should succeed in that inquiry, they have then to devise the means to reach correctively the cause ; and they have to do what yet has not been done ; they must persist in the work ; they must not depend upon excitements,—excitements react terribly, injuriously, permanently, as we all see. Ten grog-shops now exist where, before the temperance cause was preached intemperately, one was to be found. Men get rich now by retailing intoxicating drinks : formerly their greatest success was bare support. Men rise into legislators, now, from the bar room : formerly the movement was from the legislative hall to the bar-room. The corner of the street, where the red curtain screens the window, or a green venetian blind admits more air, and less light, is now a political institution, as important to the proceedings of the

Legislature of a State as were once the Bureaux of Paris to the National Convention. Behind the bar and over the bottle are settled, first the policy of legislation, and then naturally, and in proper order, the *personel* of the Senate or the House. And the masters of the Lycurgusses and the directors of the Solons of a State are seen daily, with Republican simplicity, in their shirt-sleeves, supplying stimulants to their customers of the neighborhood, and giving law-makers to the Commonwealth; and the reaction is beautifully compensative.

If the Legislature owes some members to the preparatory action of the grog-shops, those grog-shops owe their success to the grateful, perpetuating enactments of legislatures, and the fostering visitations of legislators. Republics, it is said, are ungrateful; but not the citizens of a Republic. The Nation may, from economy or neglect break the heart of those who have served it and saved it by sound principles; but State institutions exercise their limited sovereignty in liberal compensation to those who have administered them through taste and appetite.

We hear, indeed, of the progress of the age, but that progress may not be in the right direction, and the erring course may not be confined to the seniors. The toga, once the emblem of manhood, now gives place to other *habits*, and cigars and whisky are now the evidences of *manly* pretences; and, in this free country, where precocity is the result of a lack of discipline, the application of the tokens and the habits of the advanced class being arbitrary, the junior aspirant

“Rears in his mouth a gigantic cigar”

as he goes to labor, and squirts his tobacco saturated saliva bountifully around him, and signalizes his half-hour of recreation by a furtive visit to the red curtain around the corner, and returns refreshed for the necessary toils of the day.

This is extravagant, it may be said—it is rather generalizing extravagantly—it is pointing to the exception fast becoming the rule, and giving with emphasis the state of things as they now are, by anticipating a little what they, if uncorrected, are certainly and rapidly becoming.

If men or women reading this paper hesitate to give credit to the statement because it is only a little in anticipation, let them only visit the cells of the prison, and see the lads who find their way into this rendezvous of all that is bad. Let them go to the police station in the morning and see some of the junior members of the night's arrest, and notice the painful difficulty which the magistrate has in deciding upon the cases of this class of offenders, whether to fix their future degradation by making them associates of the established drunkard and thief, or seeming to encourage their downward course by letting the last night's offence pass "unwhipped of justice." Or let some one stand at the prison door and see the constable or policeman hand in the ten and twelve year old lad who has obtained drink by the money which he has stolen, and become insolent and violent by the intoxication, the madness, which the poisoned liquid has produced.

Or let those men or women go and sit by the dying girl or boy, and hear, as the writer of this article has

heard, the mortifying, the reluctant statement, that it was not the love of rum that made the sufferer a drunkard, but by the impression that there was something manly in the tossing off of a glass of grog and the puffing of a two cent cigar, or the rolling of a quid of tobacco from side to side of the mouth. Or that the example of a drunken father deprived intoxication of a portion of its criminal character; or the errors of a mother were by the girl mentally pleaded as an excuse for her own misconduct, or at least those misdeeds were continued in the full knowledge that criminality would prevent the mother from punishing for the offence. What a thought! What a curse! The mother afraid to rebuke or punish the damning fault of her daughter, because she knows that her own conduct is faulty in the same direction! The eagle wounded by the arrow feathered from her own wing is a weak comparison.

Yet these are the daily revelations of the criminal cells of our prisons.

"How could you," said the visitor to one who was incarcerated for an act that is the highest on the criminal calendar. "How could you, young and delicate as you are—how could you commit such an act?"

"If that were the first erroneous act of my life, your question would be more pertinent."

"But with some education, and with much gentleness of manner, how could you have strayed into a path that would lead to such a crime?"

"Can you look back on your book and see whether \_\_\_\_\_ was a prisoner here—perhaps four years since?"

"She certainly was."

"Well, she was my mother—my marriage causes the difference of name. Was my parentage, was my home, were the associates of such a woman, were the example and the counsels of that woman, think you, unlikely to lead me to crime, and make me a successor to my mother's cell, as I was to her business?"

"But your mother drank."

"She began by drinking, and so did I. That is the cursed cause of my disgrace, my crime, my imprisonment, of my—of whatever may follow. Stop drunkenness, and the Author of Evil must invent a new passion or a new means of promoting passion and augmenting crime. I say to you—I who am younger than your grandchildren—I say to you, that with all the means of easily procuring a living, of competence in this country, if you will destroy the means of drunkenness in your city, you will close your prisons, or have such little use for the cells as scarcely to intimate the purpose for which they were constructed. Prevent the use of intoxicating liquors, and you take from other crimes their claims on the sympathies, as you remove them from the excuses of mankind. Let it go on, let drunkenness increase as it has done of late, and you might as well lease the dwelling-houses in the city for the reception of the inebriate, and open the cells of the prisons as retreats for the temperate. Your society sends persons here to "alleviate the miseries" of the place, and I thank God for the kindness I have received from their agents and others; but the greatest miseries of public prisons now come from the number of those who crowd the cells;

and of those who crowd these cells, nine-tenths, as you admit, come from drunkenness and the disorder and vagrancy which drunkenness produces; and nearly every one of the remaining tenth depends on the plea of intoxication to excuse the crime and diminish the punishment. And look into the families which have as yet no representation here, and see how few there are that do not tremble at every police report they read, or every temporary absence of some of their number, lest habitual drinking should have begun to present its consequences."

There are lessons *from* the prison cells as well as *to* them. The visitor goes to the door of the incarcerated and preaches, but he occasionally hears sermons which startle him when vice and corruption are spoken of by the poor prisoner. Visitors, sometimes, hear the great truth—"Thou art the man—the man who, though thou mayest lay the flattering unction to thy soul that thou hast not done these things, art yet chargeable with neglect of the duty of preventing them."

What is wanted? What shall we do? We have tried association! We have tried exhortation! We have resorted to licenses, and yet the evil grows. Is it intended to let the evil grow till "some alarming stroke of fate strikes through" society and startles public indignation to a lawless outbreak, or till public sentiment becomes so debased as to take no heed of the evil?

Who will say to the people "You must either multiply prisons, or wink at crime, if intoxication is to be encouraged?" Who shall say that hitherto no true mode has been adopted for want of a deep consideration and



a perfect disinterestedness? Who shall say, openly, that the wisdom of the learned is useless, and the threatening of the laws ineffective, because they are not properly directed? Who shall boldly stand before the people and point unmistakably to the connection between intoxication and the evils which beset society—between intemperance and the plague that wastes at noonday—between intoxication and the feebleness of our laws and the laxity of their administration—between the evil of a drunken commander and the massacre of ten thousand troops? Who shall say that all these evils come from a want of deep, hearty consideration: “with destitution is the land made desolate, because there is none that is thinketh in his heart?”

Go to the corner of the street—go to the police stations—go to the prison—go to the field of battle—go to the halls of legislation—go to the heart-broken family—if you would understand anything of the insupportable evils of intoxication! And go and consider how these evils may be alleviated—how society may be relieved from the fruitful cause of its troubles—how the Nation may be saved from the greatest curse that has ever befallen it.

But whence come all these evils? Whence comes drunkenness and impurity that so besets our community? These vices, and the crimes with which they are connected, or of which they are causes, have their beginning—have some deep-seated source that is hidden from the public eye and escapes general detection—it is beyond and below the ordinary search; and, if we would detect the origin, in order to prevent their growth—at

least their pestilential prevalence—we must begin at a period of life earlier than has usually been assigned for the commencement of the evils, and we must look into influences as well as primary causes.

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## WANT OF HOME.

Perhaps, in considering the disturbing causes in social life, too little thought has been given to the influence of *home* upon both male and female children, whose essential *character* seems formed at a period much earlier than is usually supposed. And it is certain that upon the ductile and impressible minds of children, the constant privation of home influences, before the age of seven years, must be most important.

On the continent of Europe, perhaps in all parts of England, Homes for the poor are very incomplete in the fulness of supply of what in this country, what, indeed, in England, really is understood by that most inclusive word “HOME,”—parental government—parental watchfulness—parental affection and family *seclusion*—the mother of delicacy, and delicacy is the mother of purity.

In all countries, and in all ages, men in difficulty have turned with yearnings of the deepest affection towards the home of their childhood. The prodigal son, of the Saviour’s parable, first thought of his father’s house when the want, which riotous living had forced upon him,

made him a sufferer in "a far distant country." It was not, apparently, in his case, so much "home" affection as home fare that he sought,—not *home* indeed, but the comforts of the homestead. And he was not first received at home. It was at a distance that he was met. Not in the sanctuary of domestic privacy, but in the highway, among servants and strangers, that he felt the embrace of his father. The Great Author of Christianity, who narrated this little history, though he knew the human heart, and knew, also, how sanctifying and peaceful is a *mother's* love, brought not into his narrative any account of the share which the mother of the prodigal son had in his reception. The Master spoke to the comprehension of the Jews as they then were, just as he accommodated his reference to the cause of day and night, and the motion of the planets, to the limited attainments of the people in the source of astronomy; though his own hand had launched the planets into their unfailing motion in their mighty orbits, and his finger held the sun in its appointed place. No mother was mentioned in that narrative, because the idea of home did not include her presence. Or, perhaps, the mother had long been dead, and hence the last-born, the darling of the mother's love, had become a prodigal. While the other son, the object of the father's pride, and is his eldest, had profited by his primogenital privilege, and lived in the occupancy and in the administration of what was all his own.

The mother, then, as the centre and the light of home, is one great, *the* great means of family attachment, and where her influence is most felt for good,

there the children, there the incipient citizens are best moulded to domestic, social and civic duties.

But the privacy of home is necessary to a home; and if we had time and space, it would not be difficult for us to show an intimate relation between the crowded tenement house—the exposed family arrangements—the subject of family discipline on account of that exposure—and the irregular conduct of its inmates, at home and abroad—the beginning of their public faults, and the means and cause of their incarceration.

In houses occupied by many families, where each is compelled to hear and see most that is done by the others, it will be a natural result that one family shall acquire a disregard for the opinion and observation of the other, which shall lead to a neglect of all the little delicacies of family association, or such an apprehension of the over-looking and over-hearing of their immediate neighbors, as shall prevent the requisite discipline of the household, and leave, unadmonished, the dependent, or uncorrected, the offending child. The effect of this semi-promiscuous association of numerous families is destructive of that true delicacy which is the safeguard to the virtue of the young female; and those who are looking beyond the magistrate's office, and the testimony of the policeman, for the causes of imprisonment, will find them abundant in the necessities of crowded tenements, in the want of domestic privacy, and in the consequent neglect of those parental duties upon which the virtue and happiness of the children depend.

In no large city in the world are there such accommodations for the humble laborer as in Philadelphia, and

the small, neatly finished and well furnished tenements on the borders of the city, that rent for ten or twelve dollars a month, may be regarded as among the real luxuries and means of virtue for the laboring classes—steps in their upward movement to the more ample and sometimes palatial residences of the west end of the city. Thousands, without a thought, perhaps, of the cause, owe to these separate tenements the virtue, the respectability and the competence of their children. Thousands who, if condemned to the exposure of numerous families on the stairway or in the hall of an overcrowded house, would have to pine in their own poverty, and mourn over the sad influences of their dwelling-place upon their children.

These remarks, of course, relate to the influence of crowded dwellings and want of privacy upon the families and children of the poor. It is not for us now to compare the cause, and its effects upon the poor, with the public hotel boarding, and the exposures upon the families of the richer class, who sacrifice the comfort, the decency, the privacy, of home to the constant exposure of the large hotel. Yet we may say that no wealth, no claim to respectability, withdraws the children of the less laboring class from the effects of exposures to evil. Like causes produce like effects in all, allowances being made for circumstances, and a little more time being granted for those evil circumstances to work through the panoply of wealth and respectability.

It may be said that we have crowded prison cells in Philadelphia where these admirable dwellings for the laboring man abound. Of course we have. We are

overrun with a vicious population, that was neither born nor educated in Philadelphia. We have thousands of families who, not having been reared in the decent propriety of domestic privacy, do not comprehend the discomfort and the moral danger of the *room* living; and possibly even some of these neat and comfortable houses supply occupants, male and female, to the prison cells. We look for no perfection in morals, we recommend no means of improvement, with the promise that, if adopted, it will be a perfect work. But we do say that, with many years' close attention to the character and the antecedents of prisoners, in daily conversation with them at the cell-doors, we have not failed to confirm our impression that the want of domestic privacy is a terrible cause of much of the vice and crime that prevail; and we do not remember that we ever knew a prisoner, especially a female, that could point to one of these neat houses as being or having been her home.

But we repeat it, we do not expect that the multiplying these tenements will banish vice; we know better; but we may say that it will destroy one great and powerful cause of vice and crime, of indelicacy, indecency, and impurity. That is much—and, beside lessening crime, it will secure confidence and comfort, and a higher sense of respectability, to the tenants. Surely here are motives to action, and those who would alleviate the miseries of public prisons should know how the beginning of indecency, indelicacy, and how all the crimes that crowd the cells of our prisons, result from some antecedent error which was deemed too small for reproof or correction.

Careful inquiries into the disturbing causes thus lead to the conclusion that a want of home is one of the potential instruments of evil. If there is one distinguishing feature in Philadelphia life, one that marks its superiority in that respect to all others, it is the well sustained idea of Home, an idea scarcely comprehended in the cities on the Continent of Europe, and poorly understood in most other places. The evils to which we have referred are found in crowded tenement-houses, and discoverable in damp cellars, occupied by human beings, joint tenants with the rats, that, without the companionship of human beings, might have found the situation unendurable. These evils, where they exist, are spoken of with great earnestness, and denounced with proper emphasis by those who are "searching the city with candles," to find the cause of contagious diseases and widely sweeping epidemics. Sanitary efforts are directed towards this mode of existence, that makes troglodites of so many who were intended for the upper air and the decencies and proprieties of social life. But this mode of wasting the physical powers of our species, and generating miasma that shall extend beyond its mephitic cradle, has operations different and far more fatally potential in its effects on society. It destroys health, of course, and it generates typhus and its cognate diseases; but worse than that, it is the destruction of all those affections that cluster around the idea of home, and sanctify the relations of parent, child and friend. The sick wife becomes a mother in the midst of the squallor of the impure place, and the outcry of impure companions. Even the good and the virtuous, who would be decent,

cannot avoid the indelicacy of their position, and the children do not escape the fatal consequence of that indelicacy. The laboring husband and father returns from his repeated labor of the day, unable to give vent to his feelings of dislike of what is abroad, or his affection for what is at home, lest the next room neighbors should be sharers in the family colloquies. And the impossibility of making the miserable chamber or cellar tidy, soon operates to make the mistress indifferent to its appearance; and squallor and dirt are not the qualities of a mansion which attract the masters to domesticity, or induce him to try to make his apartment his home. He soon learns that he is even more welcome to the dram-shop than to his family—more comfortable, at least, where there is some regard to and means for cleanliness, than where all hopes of order and neatness are excluded. He wants a home, he marries for a home, he feels yearning for the decencies of the family fireside, and in moments of anxiety, care, disappointment, and some want, he would sacrifice much for a *home*, that Bethesda of the human heart, where the angel of affection in the young wife and child unite to soothe, console, and heal.

We doubt whether the influence of Home—Home in the separate connexion, the poor man's home, not the common burrows of a score of families—has sufficiently occupied the attention of those who seek the comfort of the afflicted, and the removal of the causes of social evil. We hope that attention will be given to this branch of domestic comfort, and that Home will be regarded by those who study and preach social science. The want



of home, the want of domestic privacy, sends the working-man to the tavern, the wife to the domestic bottle, and too often her children into disgrace and infamy, to the neglect of those lessons and practices of propriety which seem incompatible with the mixed crowd of tenement houses—houses, indeed, *tenanted* by hundreds of human beings, without even a place of separation—dilapidated old tenements, that have sunk to dram-shops below, and “rooms to let” above.

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## YOUTHFUL DEPRAVITY.

We must take a glance at another element of evil, whence the jails and penitentiaries derive their population,—we mean children. We shall say something of early education, and we shall, by extracts and arguments, seek to show that *early* education should begin *very* early. Dr. WATTS did not think it beneath his dignity, as a poet and a distinguished divine, to write “a cradle hymn,” and thus he showed how important he regarded early education, and how early that early education ought to be commenced. We shall now refer to a class of children who have never had the advantage of nursery rhymes and nursery discipline, who have little recollection even of maternal ministrations, unless in connection with the application of the bare hand or the readily-reached stick to punish offences which had never been defined as wrong, and which now appear to

the child to have been only offensive inasmuch as they thwarted some plan of the offended parent, who applied the castigation—not in the hope of correcting the fault—only to gratify personal ill-feeling.

Parts of our city abound in these young scape-graces, who are constantly in mischief and often in trouble; who get into the "House of Refuge," and out of it, till the managers refuse longer to give them room; they are too bad for the place made for bad boys, and with their growth is the continued augmentation of the belief that they are irreclaimable. These youngsters are the pest of the neighborhood to which they may resort, and annoyance of any prison or refuge to which they may be sent. They have knowledge enough to do all kinds of mischief, but they have not reflection enough to foresee the consequence of their misdeeds. Every year adds to their ability to violate the laws and annoy some of the well-disposed citizens. They find entrance into unoccupied houses and strip them of what the plumber and gas-fitter have left for the proper service of water and light. Fires originate with them, often in entire absence of thought of the amount of mischief which they are inaugurating. And having acquired among their own associates a sort of primacy in evil, they maintain the superiority till they rise from the humble condition of saucy, mischievous boys to the dignity of consummate rascals, as men.

The arrest of such boys does not amount to much; decent mothers or aunts easily procure from them a loud and emphatic assurance that they will do wrong no more, and then they are released, on account of their

youth, and the decency and the suffering of an aggrieved mother. Speak to one of these boys, in the midst of his mischievous movements, and his bold and saucy manner, and indecent—often blasphemous—language will soon satisfy the friend that his interference is to work neither comfort to himself nor benefit to the young offender. With them age has no claims to respect, nor virtue to distinction. Like their young prototypes in the Bible, they insult the gray-headed or bald-headed philanthropist who would do them good, and, like them, are torn by what their own bad passions have provoked.

Asylums, Homes, and Houses of Refuge have been provided for the young offenders of this character, but it is obvious that certain causes have been operating, of late, to augment the number of those who, for their own good and the public peace and city honor, should be placed, where they may be improved as society needs, and punished as their own faults deserve.

The work has, from time to time, been undertaken of reforming these juvenile offenders, and it is to the credit of those who have assisted the enterprise, that the work has been well done, as far as it extends. But there seems to be a new outbreak of precocious depravity that forbids all hope of immediate effectual operation towards its diminution. The number of offenders and the multitude of offences, the new character of crime, and the bold impudence of the young criminal, call for some prompt and powerful application. Prisons, Refuges, and Homes are too scarce, and those existing are too small to take in the multitude of this class of

wrong-doers. And society shows itself unable longer to absorb into natural circulation the morbid mass. Where are those who will deal with the parents of the incipient rowdy? or, the little one being parentless, who are those that will devise and execute a plan for arresting and limiting the evil without arresting and confining the actors?

It sometimes happens that the mother, who is seeking her rebellious son in prison, has to lament the failure of all the lessons of morals and religion which her piety, her affection, and hope have poured out upon her erring son. But it most frequently occurs that the wretched child is parentless, homeless, friendless. It sometimes happens that the afflicted mother has had to see her lessons and her example destroyed in her child by the drunkenness and consequent misdemeanors of his wretched father. Sometimes the mother goes to seek her sons or daughters in prison, and solicits their release, when her own breath is loaded with the fumes of intoxicating drinks, and she presents a vacillating gait and "redness of eyes by tarrying long at the bottle."

This is a subject so prolific, that we do not here venture to pass beyond the mere reference to its importance. We are not now prepared to propose any preventive or remedy. The evil lies deep in the system: it needs thorough, radical treatment. And it is to be feared that the remedy which might first suggest itself would be found quite inadequate. There are so many circumstances to be taken into consideration, in this country, which, if they exist, are of less importance, abroad. We have a population that comprehends well the value of

the liberty which they secure to themselves by citizenship, but who seem to be wholly unable to comprehend the close relation which the exercise and enjoyment of that liberty have with the indulgence of licentiousness. They are, apparently, ignorant that enlarged social liberty involves also the idea of enlarged social protection. They seem, in self-indulgence and the freedom which they give their family, to be entirely ignorant of the great principle of "social science," that by the law of freedom each individual is as much accountable to the established authority for what he does to himself as for what he does to others. That the law protects him against himself as much as it protects him from the aggression of others, or others against his aggression. Every man, rich or poor, is a part of the Republic, and as such is amenable for all that affects the Republic for himself towards himself as towards others. Could this idea be early impressed upon the minds of those who make up society, we should have much fewer of the acts that crowd the prison cells with astonished occupants, much less of the sophistry that argues that as drunkenness was produced by the use of the drunkard's own money, it was injustice to punish the inebriate. Take this argument to the family: No man has a right to administer his own affairs so that society shall suffer. No man has a right to allow his children to grow up in the exercise of those vices which ripen into the worst of crimes.

But if he will do it, if he does it, indeed, who shall stay his hand? Who shall interfere when the father errs or fails? Who shall check the wrong by dealing

with the misdoers? What man will, by sacrifice and suffering, so present the subject to society that it shall be sanctified by his sacrifice and suffering, and be commended to imitation by his success?

Our city is overrun with parents who misdirect, by example and precept, their miserable offspring, and it is still more injured with the augmented number of those young offsprings, who multiply crime and criminals to the disgrace of humanity.

What is the true remedy, and who is to apply it?

Is it known whether ordinary school education would make these children better? Is it thought possible so by force or persuasion to gather them into some place where morals would be taught by precept and example, and where their violation would be followed by such a visitation as would give to fear that salutary influence which principle would afterwards produce?

It is said, indeed, that education, ordinary school learning, only gives to a bad person available instruments for wrong-doing, and that is probable; indeed, it seems almost certain that the instrument will be *used* unless the heart and the affections be cultivated with the intellect. We need, then, asylums, places of "refuge," homes for the homeless, where, along with reading and writing, may be taught the difference between right and wrong, and the advantages of the former; the *habit* of the former, indeed, for we repeat a favorite adage: "The habits of childhood become the principle of age."

We need reformatory houses, schools, asylums, homes, refuges, retreats, or by whatever name the places may

be called. We have some excellent institutions of the kind, but "what are they among so many?"

All who know Philadelphia understand well that the philanthropic of this city have taken a lead in the work of mercy, in provisions for the poor, in sustaining retreats and opening "Homes" for the desolate; but events have proved that, available and competent as these provisions once were, they are unequal to a new state of things, and it is known that many of them have failed of their desired measure of usefulness by a policy that they failed, in some cases, to win the entire confidence of all by what, in a religious sense, may be regarded as a denominational tendency. Without considering the correctness of such an opinion, or inquiring whether, if correct, it is available against the great moral and social good proposed by those who direct some of these institutions, it is certain that an effect has been produced that diminishes the power of them to secure the objects they propose; and in addition to all this, be it said parenthetically, the influx of foreigners has been so great, that the class needing help has got beyond all the means provided by these associations.

But we think much good has been done by attempts on the part of those who, complaining of the denominational influence of existing institutions, have endeavored to establish others, where, without diminishing the proclivity of the instruction towards a special creed, that creed shall be in accordance with the opinions of the parents of the young offenders, so that there can be no objection to the entrance of the children into such an

Home, and no anxiety about the effect of the habits and the instructions of the place.

It is to be hoped that the efforts which have been, and which are being made, with additional zeal and success, will be continued, and will be seconded by public contribution. Immense good has been wrought in New York by an attempt in that direction, which has been seconded most kindly by individuals, and liberally assisted by State and city legislation.

We are not prepared with statistics of the number of children in this city that are growing up to public injury individual infamy, but probably four or five thousand, who will, making allowance for improvement, and the more certain privation by death, contribute a terrible amount to the vices and crimes of the town. When it is considered that in each one of these are the materials for a divine, or general, or statesman, or, what includes all, the materials for a good man, who can fail to deplore the awful waste of moral power and physical constitution that is involved in the condition of these almost unconscious offenders?

We do not suppose that, with even the best of material, these children can be made of great use. We know how important to that result is an *earlier* training. But they may be withdrawn from the rank of vice in which they now shine, and be saved from the career of crime and the end of infamy towards which they are rapidly tending. For that purpose, so important to society, surely it is desirable that philanthropists should seek to snatch them from their dangerous position; but for a higher and a holier purpose, for an end that lies beyond



the errors and punishment, the virtues and the reward of this life, it should be the earnest desire and constant exertion of every Christian man to check their course and turn them to virtue.

Something, we are glad to notice, has been attempted in this direction by a veteran philanthropist,\* a member of this Committee, but outside the action of the Society. Thousands of rude boys, bootblacks and supernumerary paper sellers, have been called together with a purpose of organization, and a plan for moral and physical improvement. *This* plan may fail of the good effect exactly in the direction proposed, but no plan of good ever entirely fails—objectively it works benefit in some form, perhaps, more consistent with the circumstances of the proposed beneficiaries; subjectively, the author of such a scheme has a glorious reward, in the consciousness of

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\* MR. ABRAHAM MARTIN has taken measures to instruct some hundreds of the small newspaper boys; little bootblacks, and others of similar age, and of equally indifferent habits. As a general rule, we should prefer to see such persons gathered into Sunday Schools and other similar organizations in churches, which their parents were accustomed to attend, (if indeed they or their parents ever had any such custom.) It would make them feel a more common interest with others. But when, as in this case, the number is so large that the school that would receive them into class could not take them up into the moral or social circulation, and they must hence remain a distinct portion from the other members of the body. It may be deemed best to unite them, to give their *esprit du corps* a higher direction, and make them feel a greater respect for themselves; in the first place, from the interest which their superiors manifest in their welfare; and secondly, from the higher aims and great success which attend their associated efforts.

good efforts rightly intended, and a gratifying sense that he has tried to do good to more than "one of the least of the little ones."

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## COMING FROM THE COUNTRY.

Cities owe much to the enterprise, calculation, industry and integrity of business men, as well as to the appropriate qualifications of those who are in the learned professions. All combine to make up the great sum of business that gives activity to capital, and employment and reward to industry. Above the thousands who acquire no particular distinction, who toil to live, and seem to live only to toil, there looms up, here and there, some one that has acquired immense wealth by doubtful speculation, or by the frequent, sudden variations in commerce; and now and then one dies, who has earned, by long industry, and saved by pinching economy, millions, that afforded him little comfort, save in the acquisition, and which do little good till he has ceased to look upon them. These exceptions arrest attention, and are often mistaken for the rule of mercantile life, instead of the exception. Thousands have followed the wagon to London, or sold cigars in Philadelphia, that never acquired more of what Whittington attained than the cat with which his name is connected, or accumulated more of what Girard possessed here, than the name for integrity and the respect for extended age, which were a part

of the great Philadelphia mariner and banker's attainment.

The continued tide of people, country-born and bred, that is flowing into our large cities, might be regarded with more approbation as infusing healthy material into the life of the commercial capital, if it were not that it is from these materials that spring so much of the very impurities which we have to deplore and try to correct in the social condition. It is to be feared that a dislike for direct manual labor is one cause of this influx of country immigration, a disinclination to expend the sweat of the brow and the force of the arm upon a day's earnings. The desire to "taste and see" what are the amusements of a city life, without the experience or restraint which suggests prudence, or keeps back from dissipation, induces a vast number of young men, every year, to seek their fortunes where so many fortunes are made,—how many are spent, they do not know,—and to rush into enjoyments that please at first, from novelty, and produce disgust when it is too late to pause.

Of course many, who come to the cities, armed with a good moral education and well-disciplined minds, and well-established habits, and who move under the eye of some senior friend, or are restrained by religious responsibilities, achieve the object which they seek, if reason is used in their calculation of results. But so many come because they cannot dig, and are ashamed to beg, come with no fixed principles of piety or sound sense of justice—come to accept the first proposition of employment, or fail to get that proposition—that there is

always in our cities a most frightful number that, wishing they had staid at home, are yet ashamed to return for their "husks," and continue to fall from riotous living into degraded crime, and mingling with the equally unfortunate and fallen of city birth, go to make a considerable portion of that class for which this Society labors, and by whom the criminal courts are crowded, the cells of the prisons filled, and the taxes of the people, the rich and the laboring, are augmented.

A hint, valuable in the United States, may be derived from one fact set forth in the French Reports for 1862, viz: "That the number of convicts have been on the increase since the introduction of railroads. Not, of course, that railroads are necessarily promotive of crimes, but because they have tended to draw from the agricultural and small manufacturing districts an immense number of persons who, at home, continued to earn a decent living, or, at worst, to keep away from crimes, that would demand penal confinement while in Paris, whither they rush for what they may chance to gain by unusual industry, or what they may obtain by an enlarged exercise of not very creditable talents; they come to misery. \* \* \*"

If any man will examine the inmates of the County Prison of Philadelphia, he will be satisfied that a very great number of the miserable creatures have rushed to the city in the vague expectation of something "turning up" to their advantage; but they soon find that what was deemed masterly sharpness, in a village, must, in a large city, yield to the vast superiority of well-practised art, and detection soon follows attempts to do wrong, and

the failing exploiter soon finds that he has been made the dupe of his own vanity, and the tool of experienced knaves, who qualify him for their service by securing his arrest, and bind him to their association by some power they may have exercised in securing his release.

It is wonderful how every calling of life, how every branch of industry and of idleness is filled in a city, and how much the young aspirant from the country finds himself, or herself, disappointed in the expectation of success. And, perhaps, those who come with a determination to succeed, to a certain amount, by the adoption of the lowest, most vicious means or pursuits, make the greatest mistake and endure the keenest disappointment. The prison cells of Moyamensing reveal the mortifying fact, that even the country female, who has come to the city to enjoy the advantage of impurity, finds herself painfully disappointed in the results. There are arts in vice as well as in virtue, and there is a skill resulting from practice and association, that is as necessary to success in vice and crime as in virtue and honest employment, and hence the prisons of Philadelphia are crowded with young persons whose vanity, whose love of idleness, or whose zeal for gain is zeal without knowledge, have called them away from the quiet of the rural parts of the State, and whose want of knowledge of city ways, and especially those whose want of sound moral principles make them ready yielders to unfavorable circumstances, and victims of the smallest efforts of those who have more acquaintance with the bad ways of the city, and especially expert in evading arrests or shifting charges of wrong-doing from their own shoulders to those

of persons who have become their tools and victims. "Like causes produce like effects," so far as circumstances agree, and what is true of Paris prisons, with regard to the whole of France, and of the London prisons, with regard to the whole of the British Isle, is true of the prisons of Philadelphia, with regard to the whole of Pennsylvania, and, probably, the prisons of most of the Capitals of the old States of our Union, with regard to the whole of those States.

This *fact* is likely to exist; we can't prevent it; but we may, by exertion, mitigate the evil, with regard to the unfortunate prisoner, as well as in reference to our community; nor need we overlook the interests of the agricultural or mining regions, which suffer by the unnecessary draft upon a population that might honestly multiply the harvest of corn and potatoes, and increase the production of coal and iron, if they were kept out of the city, where they only consume the fruits they ought to have raised, and ruin themselves and others by dabbling in stocks that represent neither coal nor oil. Of the class that comes only to fall, poor moths of society, the sooner they are forced or coaxed back to the kitchen or field toil, the better for them and for all. They assist to augment the evils of a great city, and produce a plethora that is dangerous to the whole system.

Mr. Jefferson says: "Great cities are great sores." Perhaps a "sore" is, in some cases, a necessary evil. Cities are certainly an aggregation of social humors, to which tend some of the worst secretions of the whole system. 'Squire Shandy regarded the Capital of a country as its head, towards which there was a constant tendency

of the public humors, and, if they rushed too strongly in that direction, there was danger of a derangement of the system, if not of apoplexy. Morally, this *rushing of blood* to the commercial capital, where there are usually quite a sufficiency of *bloods*, is productive of injury—of crime, here, as well as in Paris and London. And it is to be noted that the withdrawal of these particles from other portions of the body, making plethoric the head, does not purify the system, does not benefit the locality that yields its material. Unfortunately, while the city derives its numbers from the rural districts, the latter catch their manners, and finally their morals, from the city, and when the whole head is sick then the whole heart is faint,—when the brain is disturbed the extremities become paralyzed.

This hint, which we have sought to impress upon the minds of our readers, is important, and, perhaps, parents in the country who think that there is no field of action worthy of the talents and acquirements of their sons, will come to a conclusion that it is more profitable to be cutting well-filled oats on farms enriched by their sweat, tilled by their labor, and made doubly productive by their agricultural science, than to be sowing wild oats in the great cities. The harvest of the farm's product is gathered into garners that are safer and richer than banking-houses and store-houses,—the sowers of city tares are usually garnered into the County Prison, that common depository of the instruments of city husbandry, the *rakes* of the town, and the tools by which the established swindler has plowed wickedness and reaped iniquity.

## BAD BOOKS.

With no intention of extending these remarks to any argument, we think it appropriate to place in the list of disturbing causes the prevalence of "Bad Books" of immoral, seductive, undermining, ruinous reading. Years ago the genius and learning in a considerable part of Europe were employed in arguments against revealed religion, and in ridicule of all modes of worship and social obligations resting upon inspiration. How horribly successful these efforts were, the state of morals in Europe, and the open profanity in many parts of Christendom, fully illustrate. A reaction resulted, and religion once more came in fashion. But the pestilent works that assisted in the production of this evil remain to poison the new literature that succeeds it. It is not the mode of dealing with the public mind, in this generation, to assail religion directly, to denounce its ordinances, and ridicule those who seek to conform to them. No one now writes a book to disprove the existence of a God; no one now seeks to earn distinction by attacks upon religion. But books are written to weaken dependence upon religious truth, and to make the young believe that enough is done when outrage to established morals is spared. Stories are circulated in type that excite curiosity with regard to vice, and gratify that curiosity by making vicious. Scarcely one of these writers closes a chapter without some applause of religious truth, or begins another without violating, in hint and



narrative, every sense of religious and moral propriety. The world, after the first shock, had virtue enough left to rally against the bold, open attack of Atheism, though society has not yet recovered from the consequence of that attack ; but this siege of the public mind has been steady and regular, and the young are flippantly moral and fashionably religious. They are, by bad reading, weaned from a common-sense view of what concerns the ordinary affairs of life, and from every sense of responsibility for opinions by which actions are to be governed, and for actions that are not directly and openly antagonistic to the command of Scripture.

The extent of this evil is much greater than is supposed, and its commencement dates much farther back than even many thoughtful people imagine. But its prevalence is now painfully manifest, and it is difficult to tell how the end is to be met. It is best, however, to understand some of its means and channels of operation, and to see the cause connected with its effects.

At many places where papers are sold improper books may be secretly purchased, and indecency in print has its agents and dispensers as well as science and polite literature. But go to the cell of a common class of prisoners, and it will be found that time is made to pass pleasantly by the use of books that are the pocket companions of that kind of persons, and the taste for sober narrative is destroyed, if it ever existed ; the reading even of the ordinary contents of a daily paper is scarcely endurable unless seasoned with some smart police report, or the result of some criminal trial or indecent exposures, with such a statement of the success

of thieves and cheats in escaping public punishment, as will encourage the imprisoned reader to hope for success in future crime.

The evil of bad books is accommodated to all circumstances and all conditions, from the openly lewd presentation of indecencies in which caution uses no veil, to the more guarded exposure of vice of the same character; from the openly blasphemous sheet, to the well-weighed reasoning that finally makes virtue and religion kick the beam.

These sources of many of the streams of bitter waters that sicken society are abundant and unfailing, and the public amusements of the time all seem tending towards the same bad state. It was the wish of Job, in the midst of his miseries, that his "adversary had written a book." Had he lived in these times, he would have been satisfied, for not only would his adversary have written, but the adversary of every other man and woman, the adversary of virtue and happiness, would have written enough to satisfy Job that he could not "take upon his shoulders" either the book or its responsibilities without a danger which no man living in the fear of God and the love of his fellow creatures would venture to assume. Job had troubles enough, but he was spared the affliction of bad books, otherwise the increase of the number of his children would scarcely have been a blessing to his old age.

## REMEDIES—EARLY EDUCATION.

Education, literary, moral and religious, is one great means of preventing the errors of the young, and of amending the lives of the erring. It is of course dependant for its efficacy upon the efforts put forth to make the literary, scientific and artizan portions of that education subservient to the good purposes of life. If a human being is depraved, his education will avail him little, excepting to enlarge the sphere and means of his crimes. Early and continued discipline of the most gentle and the most persistent kind is requisite, and he who would meliorate the condition of society and "alleviate the miseries of prisons," must understand something, must know something, of the effect of habits on the character of a child or a man. "Man is a bundle of habits," and what he was when he was young, he is in a greater or less degree when he is old. New circumstances, a change of principles, and enlarged experience, do much, but they only affect in part; the results of each and of all these elements of change are only a modification, not an entire change. The rash fellow whose principles yield to the influence of Christianity, ceases to be a rash fellow—but he is nevertheless a rash Christian. The lignite drawn from the bowels of the earth may, as the effect of those change-producing causes beneath the surface, resemble in appearance and uses the true pit-coal so valued in all its employment, but its

grain is yet unabsorbed, and knotty excrescences show that it was once all wood, and is not entirely coal. We are sanctified in part, and the later the good work is commenced, the less will it effect the whole character; the earlier it is begun, the more thorough, the more entire, the more ineradicable, will be its effects.

LORD BROUGHAM, in one of his *Essays on Education*, declares that the character is formed at six years of age, and the assertion was denied by many and doubted by more. The elements upon which the character is formed are received at an early age, quite as early as six years. They may not have as yet manifested themselves in their fruits, but they are fructifying, and thereafter the chief business of education and discipline will be to watch and direct their growth, and, if possible, prevent a preponderance of the evil elements.

The education of a child, the formation of its character, however, is, in our opinion, to be begun far earlier than the period mentioned by LORD BROUGHAM, though he it said that he speaks as if the preparatory portion, the real influencing part of the work, was nearly concluded at six.

In seeking how we may prevent the repletion of our prison cells, we must inquire for the causes, and we must not look for them at the door of the prison, nor in the scenes of debauchery, whence the prisoner is often drawn. We must inquire for the first impression, and if we would be successful in our efforts to prevent the evil, we must labor to have these first impressions rightly formed and of permanent character. We must go back beyond LORD BROUGHAM'S period, and know, and

use the knowledge, that the formation of the character is begun with the first developement of the mind and the completeness of the character, either for good or for evil, is dependent upon the earliest effort.

The experience of the young child of three years is a kind of confirmation of his vague ideas in earlier infancy, and the nursery cradle and the prison cell have a much nearer relation with each other than is usually imagined, than is dreamed of by mothers who act or talk falsehood to their mistaken offspring. The child, himself, as he grows up, does not recollect the cause of his scary dreams and his weak fear of forms unseen, and mightier far than he!" He has little idea of referring to the nursery the cause of the crime for which he is confined in the Refuge, though he can scarcely tell the time when, with the same temptations, he would not have committed the crime for which he is suffering, or others that are consistent with earlier taste.

We must look far back, very far, if we would detect the cause of the criminality of children, and the causes of the felony of the men, and if we would prevent the evils of that criminality, the terrible results of that felony, we must begin with the mother's breast; she must feed her offspring "with the sincere milk of the word."

Inquiries have led us to this conclusion—inquiries at the cell of the convict, inquiries of the poor lad on his first imprisonment for his hundredth crime, and watchfulness as to the course of those whose course we could trace from the swaddling bands to their chains on the gallows. But the want of official reports by competent

persons leave us without authority in this State. But yet there is one statement in the reports relative to the French prisons, from which we have, in another part of this journal, given extracts, which wonderfully confirms our ideas, and warrants our assertions of the importance of early, the *earliest* training of the young mind, and we call attention thereto.

It seems that at least eight thousand children from six to sixteen years of age, are annually tried and sentenced to imprisonment in France. Of course the kind of imprisonment is dependent upon the age and capacity of the prisoner.

Now mark, here is the sixth year (Lord BROUGHAM's period) given as that when the culprit is supposed to be capable of judging something of the character of his act—judging at least enough to make him accountable for its criminality, so that the mind must have been responsibly active long before.

Of these young prisoners, many are in some degree improved, many are hardened, and evince no appetite for good; many are born illegitimate, and have had little or no parental care; many are children of those who are inmates of the higher prisons, or deserve that situation; many come from schools; many from the frequent and perhaps regular attendance at their places of religious worship; many of them have made their first communion, as is mentioned in the report, yet, with all these last named favorable circumstances, they come by thousands to the criminal tribunals, and to the cells of the prison, and depart to finish their bad course.

But mark the other statement. There are in France numerous establishments—"Foundling Hospitals," Convents, and "Houses of Mercy"—where the infant, even the new-born infant, is received; one sent to hide the shame of an erring mother; another to save the cost of maintaining the child—all to be taken care of, and brought up in the manners and customs of the place. Many thousands of these children are annually received.

And yet the Report says that the number of the class of illegitimate and legitimate orphans that reach the prisons of France from these asylums, is so very small as to be unworthy of mention. It may almost be said that none of these foundlings, received in early infancy, and reared with religious care, ever fall into those crimes that are punished by the sentence of a criminal court.

Do our readers comprehend that lesson? Do they see what is taught therein? Do they recognize the great lesson which it conveys to every mother, nurse, and friend; to every man and every woman that would diminish crime in society, and alleviate the miseries of prisons?

We have rarely met with such a convincing and instructive statement, and we commend it to the attention of all who would bless society by the infusion of sound morals. In our opinion, such a fact as that which we have drawn from the French Reports is of the highest consequence, and should teach parents, mothers especially, to feel the vast responsibilities of their high office, and should encourage the conductors of "Homes," Or-

phan Asylums, and foundling institutions, to labor early and hopefully.

This early training is not a new idea, only not frequently carried out. The work of *education* is continually going on, only it is going on without any special observation. The plastic mind of the little one is being moulded from its birth, its temper excited or modified, and its appetites directed correctly or incorrectly; and as certainly as a day closes, so certainly has some effect been wrought upon the child—not great, and perhaps not then perceptible, but really and effectually; and when the little one, “mewling in the nurse’s arms,” evinces a trifle more of what is called temper than is deemed pretty or good, the work of mischief is aided by additional irritation, and a partial attempt at correction only disturbs the early impression, and the spirit of the child is “macked” by spasmodic attempts to amend what has been going wrong during the while of its short existence.

The mothers who followed the great Author of Christianity and His comforting doctrines, understood the value of the earliest impression upon the minds of their offspring. They brought young children unto Him, and He who knew the human heart, He who knew as well the experience of the child as of the man, rebuked the interference that would intimate that even “infants” are too young for instruction.

We respectfully commend to our readers, to those who look to efforts to correct general morals, in order to “alleviate the miseries of public prisons,” to consider this idea. Most true in this regard is the Latin proverb :



*"Bis dat qui cito dat."* Certainly he gives twice, he gives amply, he gives effectually, who gives soon and early to the infant, the impress of good sentiments. The asylums of the erring boys and girls of France afforded ample supply of convicts to the various prisons of the empire; but the Director of all the prisons for thirty-three millions of people, looked in vain in the "penitentiaries," "houses of detention and correction," and the "agricultural prison," for a single graduate of the asylums, foundling hospitals, and convents, into which only the *very* young are received, though there the foundling is usually the child of shame and misery.

He who would prevent crime is greater than he that would punish the offence or reform the criminal, rare as is that last great work; but he who would prevent crime extensively must begin in season, and forget much that he has heard about years of discretion and seasons of accountability. Bad acts are earlier than crimes, but they are as certain to become crimes as the actor is to become accountable. When the particular moment, the period of accountability, arrives, we do not know, at different ages, with different persons, and with different acts; but certainly the season of moral responsibility precedes that of legal accountability, and the character and proclivity of the mind is established much earlier than is usually supposed. At all times somebody is responsible for the act of the child. If late, the child is legally accountable for its own act; if early, she who, by bad acts or culpable neglect, fixes the wrong in the child, is morally responsible—responsible not only *then*, and for that little error, but ALWAYS—and for all the

mighty evils that may spring from that early fault—accountable for the disregard of honor that may stain the character of the statesman, and disgrace a national Senator—accountable for the recklessness of guilt that gives bad eminence to the unreflecting villain who comes to man's worst use and most disgraceful end, the gallows.

## PART FOURTH.

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### ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS.

We desire to say here, that in this Journal, no attempt is made, beyond the simple "report" of proceedings, to complete any analysis of a subject, or exhaust the argument. They are presented from time to time, from year to year, as circumstances may suggest, and are discussed only in the light in which any event may present them. They are pertinent to the labors of our Society, and those who best understand them will be the best able to direct or advise the works of our committees.

It is a terrible mistake, in many, never to look beyond the error which they condemn as hurtful, to the causes which are prolific in bad fruits. This is tampering with symptoms, or with manifestations, when the disease itself is working death. We have seized upon some of the causes of the crimes which produce crowded prisons, but not with entire fulness. We desire to point out what our experience presents to us as the causes of the moral plague by which the community is beset. Let others follow our suggestions, and discover additional causes aiding to produce the same effect; or let them

deal more at large with any of the particular causes which we point out, and thus quicken public inquiries and ensure correction.

We have also referred to some remedies, not because we suppose that they are specifics, but because experience tells us they are good in such cases. Nor do we suppose that the man of true social science is to pause upon a prescription of remedies and confine himself to the single dose. There are other means of prevention, and some of cure, and there must also be persistent efforts to present those means. They must be amplified. They must also be repeated. They must be reiterated. They must be exhibited with earnestness and discrimination, carefully and steadily; they must, in the language of Scripture, be offered "Precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little."

We would, in this way, instruct, if we can, but especially would we suggest.

In the division of this year's Journal, which succeeds, we shall offer a few remarks upon subjects, some of which, while they belong to the scope of our Society, are in the administration of others. They touch upon the great subject upon which we associate, but they are not entirely the *work* of our committees. They are presented, however, that each subject may occupy the minds of philanthropists, and exercise the faculties of those who are able and willing to labor for the good of the less gifted or less virtuous of their kind.

We must not, however, forget that what is done for the correction of error, for the restoration of the lost, for

the improvement of the neglected, the instruction of the ignorant, and the repentance of the wicked, is so much done to society at large, so much done to the cause of humanity, of general morals, so much done for piety and patriotism.

We regard our Society as co-operative with the hundred philanthropic institutions in our city, not in the same channel, but with the same flood; not always upon the same persons, but always in the same cause; not usually with the same means, but always to the same ends. "To clothe the naked is not to visit the prisoner indeed, but the same lofty motive, and the same glorious compensation connects the charities; and it often happens that he who sees his fellow-man in prison, and faithfully ministers to him, is in the discharge of all those offices which are recommended with encouragement and reward."

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## THE INSANE.

On the subject of the insane, we have nothing further to add to our former observations, beyond the statement of the fact that, while the various institutions for those afflicted with mental malady continue to be nearly filled, some of them, the largest in the country, crowded, there is still a want of a retreat for the insane—those who may be suffering that terrible visitation, under every

circumstance and form—and not only for the rich and the poor, the highly-connected and the friendless, but for those who, having been convicted of the violation of the laws of the Commonwealth, manifest decided aberration of mind. We must not confound insanity with crime, even though insanity be the fruit of crime. We must so understand and so administer our penal laws as to make it evident that we mean to improve as well as punish, to correct as well as imprison. And certainly no such idea could be involved in the imprisonment of an insane man. We hope, therefore, that the time is not far distant when the State will provide places of retreat for all the insane who must depend on public aid for comforts, and places of appropriate detention for those criminal insane whose afflictions prevent them from comprehending the nature of those crimes for which they have been tried, and of which they have been convicted.

There is one other reason for a State asylum for the insane man charged with crime. A recent Act of Assembly, in this State, provides that, when a prisoner is charged with a heinous offence, especially with homicide, his attorney may, if there is appearance of aberration of mind, elect to try him upon the charge of insanity, and, if that is proved, the prisoner must be held in confinement until it shall be shown that he is sufficiently restored in mind to be the proper subject of a trial for homicide. Now what is to be done with a class of such prisoners? Surely the provisions which we ask for the criminal insane seem to be those that would be required for the insane accused, unless, indeed, the new enactment

is to be used as means of defeating justice, which, of course, we cannot suppose.

There is, often, considerable difficulty in distinguishing between absolute insanity, as a substantive disease, and that derangement which is immediately consequent upon hard drinking. Yet it would be better to send the rum maniac to the almshouse than to send the unfortunate insane to the prison. And humanity is concerned in the correction of the evil which now exists, not by any fault of the magistrate, but by a deficiency in the laws, which they are to execute.

It is true that, in this city, a certificate of the physician may often ensure the transfer of the sufferer from the prison to the almshouse; but that will not save the unhappy patient from the shock which the place and its associations are likely to produce.

Only those who have given much attention to the progress of mental disease, and its effects under various circumstances, can judge of all the evil produced by sending, to a common prison, a human being who is laboring under any form of insanity. Of course the effect is different upon different persons. The morbid state of the mind naturally magnifies the outrage, and the person who enters the cell only a little deranged becomes, suddenly, a maniac of alarming power of mischief. Or, shocked at the idea of association with felons, or the occupation of a place destined to criminals, the disease passes from the hopeful state, in which it usually exists in the earliest stages, to that of settled insanity; and the loss of reason to the sufferer, and the loss of the sufferer to society, are the consequences of the unchari-

table, the inhuman treatment of the patient, the *patient*, not the *criminal*.

The directors of the asylums must be rich in the experience of the various forms of insanity, and with scenes and language to which the different mental proclivities of their patients give rise. These scenes are, of course, much modified by the kind provision and ministration of a well-ordered asylum or hospital. So, too, they are made more painfully intense by the aggravation which the disease receives from all the surroundings of the deranged occupants of a prison cell. At times, violent rage, at the disgrace of imprisonment is manifested; sometimes violence to others is threatened; sometimes the mortification of the sufferers manifests itself in attempts upon their own lives; often long-forgotten quarrels are revived in the memory, and the battle mentally re-fought. Sometimes scenes most distressing to the sensibilities of all are presented, and at other times the cell is made the theatre of acts that strike the occupants with awe.

Only a few weeks since, one of the Inspectors of the County Prison was going his rounds, and on opening the door of one of the cells, he was struck with the appearance of awe which was manifested by two females, whose "manner of life, from their youth up," had not been of a kind to create much respect for holy things or sacred associations, yet they stood there spell-bound, while in one corner of the cell was a female of general good looks, with her countenance marred by grief, and her position that of deep humility. She had arranged her dress so that it resembled a Roman toga; her head was bound



round with a dark fillet, disposed somewhat like a coronet, and resting in her arms was a stick, held like a sceptre. She had assumed the dress, appliances and position of the Saviour, as some great artist has represented Him in the great painting of the *Ecce Homo*, when he was arrayed in mock majesty before Pilate. She was dumb; she opened not her mouth; while she and all upon her assisted in the illusion, and enforced upon the awe-struck companions a consideration of the original represented to them daily, in most of their books of devotion.

The poor sufferer had other means of showing her insanity, but none that produced such an impression upon her companions, who, while they were aware of the unhappy situation of the prisoner, never seemed to forget that scene, and never failed to allow its impression to influence their conduct towards her, even when her actions were of a less impressible character.

In such a scene as that which we have mentioned—and it is only mentioned to illustrate the idea of the utter inadaptability of a county prison to the wants of an insane person—we see how the feelings of the insane person may be so shocked that the greatest care of the most accomplished mental physician might be made unavailing to cure.

It is not known that there has been any amelioration of the condition of insane paupers in the County Almshouse, consequent upon any legal enactments; and we have no reason to think that any new provisions have been made in their behalf. The Mahomedans regard, with especial favor, the man whose reason has been dis-

turbed, and devote extraordinary attentions to him on account of his condition. We certainly do not think, then, Christianity is exemplified in the neglect of kind attention towards the insane, whose poverty makes them friendless.

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## SOCIETIES OF PATRONAGE.

The returns which are made to the acting committees, of the expenses of the Agent at the County Prison, and of the report of the action of the Committee on the Eastern Penitentiary, do not show how much this society, through its agents, committees, and individual members, expend upon discharged prisoners, nor is it, perhaps, desirable that the full sum should be known. Certainly it would be most unpleasant to those contributing directly, to have their efforts at good blazoned abroad. It is gratifying to know that something in this way is done to aid the discharged criminal, and assist him to procure a living for himself, to establish a standpoint upon which he may make a manly effort to place himself in the ranks of respectable society. Of course the most of this kind of good work is done by the Committee on the Penitentiary. There the separate cell insures thought and produces promises at least of amendment, and long absence from the world and its associations weans the convict from a wish to associate with the former partners of his misdeeds. He is helped forward, and often continues to advance.

At the County Prison much is done to help men to their home, or to help them to live till they can obtain employment; and a considerable sum, in the aggregate, is spent by the visitors in this good work. And we ought to add that the law allows the Superintendent of the Prison to grant small sums—from three to five dollars—to retiring convicts, and this is bestowed with much discrimination by that officer, while the Agent of the Society often adds a little in the way of money, clothing, and a railroad pass. This is done especially to females, who have no chance of obtaining money by overwork.

In France there are societies in existence, especially in Paris, known as “Societies de Patronage;” and in the Reports upon French Prisons, of which we have made such copious abstracts, particular mention is made of the action of these societies.

After stating the number of young persons that had, on leaving the prisons and other penal places, returned to their families, or had been placed with citizens as apprentices or servants, the account mentions that of about 10,000 liberated in five years, 354 had been confided to the *Societies of Patronage*; and it thus speaks of these last named institutions.

“It is to be regretted that these societies are not more abundant in France; that there might be extended to a much greater number of young prisoners the excellent effects of their patronage and care. The “Society of Patronage of the Seine” (that is of Paris) is the one that has obtained the best results. It is most desirable that the founder of this institution should find imitators. The difficulties resulting from the clashing of the patron-

age of the society with paternal authority, have probably retarded the progress of this important means of improving the young. It is believed that plans for removing this difficulty will be immediately adopted, and every considerable city in France be made the centre of such a patronage for its own department."

Under different names, the work of the "Society of Patronage" in France is attempted in this country. There is a specific association in Massachusetts for the particular purpose of receiving the convict as he is about to leave the prison, and assist him in obtaining employment, and to watch his new course in society. In Philadelphia the work is a part of the labors which the "Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons" assumes, and which it, in some degree, discharges; but while it is not able to do all the good which it desires, it of necessity is compelled to leave unrecorded and undisplayed most of the good which it does accomplish, lest the publication of the circumstances should draw painful attention to the object of its charitable labors.

It is a great object of the system of separate imprisonment, that the convicts shall not know each other in prison, and consequently that when released they shall not exercise upon each the dangerous power resulting from a knowledge of their crime and punishment; that they shall not, abroad, prevent the fulfilment of good resolutions by exciting constant suspicions in the public mind. All who have looked to this evil of the released convict comprehend its terrible extent. Almost all can cite instances of the utter shipwreck of the good intentions of ex-convicts, by the sudden appearance of

some companion in imprisonment, whose enticement, or whose threats of exposure, or whose forced companionship, have alarmed the society in which the repentant criminal had taken refuge, and thus driven him forth again "to prey at fortune."

Not the less dangerous, perhaps, would be the ostentatious patronage of a society, or its members, who should, in the exercise of their benevolence, ticket the object of their charity as a repentant felon and the ex-inmate of the penitentiary, and ask the community to trust him with the care of their valuables. The good, then which this Society in Philadelphia can achieve, and which it does achieve, must remain unrecorded; or if the facts of the case are such as to admit of partial exposition, the authentication of circumstances of name and location must be withheld, to the diminution of interest in the statement, and of credibility in the narrative.

We need large means and additional numbers to carry out the good plans of the Society in this direction. Especially is there an effort needed in behalf of female prisoners. Much good is done every year for the prisoners who are leaving the penitentiary and jail—much that does not admit of record; indeed, little of that work will allow of exposition; but more remains unaccomplished, and the repentant convict returns to the haunts of vice, not from the prison, but from the vain attempts to establish only that degree of confidence which insures employment; or, having obtained employment, he shrinks from the ill-concealed suspicion or occasional reference to the his past history, by the

unconvicted, and seeks the association of those who cannot taunt him with his crimes nor sneer at him for his imprisonment.

The poor erring female is most in need of this species of patronage. She knows the estimate which her own sex sets upon her errors and derelictions; she knows how fatal to all her hopes is the exposure to which she has been submitted in her trial and punishment, and she has no such confidence as the erring man possesses toward her own sex, and indeed towards the other. She would, if she could, hide from the world the fact of punishment—perhaps never again commit the offence that called for that chastisement, and blot out the months and years of her crime and their consequences. But the female who is seeking confidence must account for all the time, and the world will believe that every *hiatus* in her confession is to be filled with a statement of errors. This class of persons needs assistance. They do obtain some, but there is less than their circumstances require, less than charity suggests, less than the full measure of alleviating the miseries of public prisons demands. The work is always repulsive, often thankless, frequently a failure with regard to its object, but it is always a *duty* of charity.

The Visiting Committee to the Penitentiary have done admirable service in this way, and we have in previous years referred directly to some instances of wonderful success. It is, however, much easier for the male than for the female convicts to succeed in re-establishing themselves, and it is less repulsive to labor for fallen men than for fallen women.

But we must repeat that some most beautiful and consoling instances of complete reformation and success have attended the efforts to reform females, and were it not for impeding the good work, interesting accounts of the progress of the reformation, and the triumph of principle, and the great reward, would be given in this report.

The permanent good wrought for female prisoners has been, almost without exception, the result of careful watchfulness on the part of some friends, and the assurance, that in case of difficulty, (without crime) the repenting person should have a friend.

We will not close these remarks upon the duty and success of efforts to assist the *retiring* prisoner without a direct reference to the labors of the Committee on Discharged Prisoners, and, in doing this, we make known the fact of a new element of prison population. Peace has sent home thousands to return to the discharge of the duties of life, to resume their places among good citizens, and be a good part of that Nation that they assisted to save; but with them comes a smaller number, who seem to have forgotten their duties to themselves and to society, and to have become unprofitable servants.

We copy a part of a report, and invite thereto the attention of the reader.

In our visits to the newly-admitted prisoners, within the same period, we find ninety-eight, sixty-seven of whom are from the country jails. Of the whole number, fifty-nine have been in the Army or Navy. Of the last twenty-eight admissions, eight-tenths are of that class, on whose account our feelings have been deeply enlisted. They

appear to be, nearly all, first convictions. In conversing with them it is admitted that the moral hedge has been weakened by the Army associations and practices;—through the frailty of our common nature and want of moral courage, they have fallen. It is a painful reflection that men, who have perilled their lives for the stability of our Government, should be brought into this situation, some having long sentences.

It is suggestive whether something cannot be done to alleviate their condition. When we reflect that every State in the Union has contributed its quota to this class, and that they have been returned there, respectively to be disbanded, it is reasonable to suppose that all of the State Prisons in the Union will make a similar exhibit to our own. Most of these are young men, who, in their separate cells, removed from the surrounding influences which have led them astray, their early associations and domestic ties are revived in their mental vision with feelings of renewed tenderness, presenting an opening for the Christian philanthropist to call their attention to the spiritual warfare, inviting them to enlist under the Banner of the Cross of Christ, the Captain of our salvation, who was never foiled in battle, and who will lead on to victory. We feel constrained to suggest to the Acting Committee, that a committee be appointed to take the subject under consideration, in order to digest some practicable plan of communication with individuals who reside within the limits of each State Prison, whose feelings are prepared to enter into the labor, whether it be through the Inspectors, Wardens, &c., or the religious community which surrounds them, or the whole combined, as they, in their judgment, may propose, in order to carry into effect the greatest amount of usefulness.

JEREMIAH WILLETTTS,  
 GEORGE TABER,  
 JOHN J. LYTLE,  
*Committee.*



## PHILANTHROPIC INSTITUTIONS OF PHILADELPHIA.

When taking a survey of the means of preventing vice and crime, and those of reforming the vicious and the criminal, we are often struck with the wonderful fecundity of the City of Philadelphia in institutions for such noble purposes, and a volume might be formed of simple descriptions of these various establishments; and many volumes could be filled with statements of cases of those who have been greatly benefitted by resorting to some of them, when the provisions of the house had a particular reference to their case. Of course, our city has its prison, where improvement is combined with punishment, and has its vast number of public schools, where secular education, for almost all practical purposes, may be obtained. It has its asylums for the insane, and its immense almshouse; but the number of what are called humane institutions—asylums, retreats, refuges, &c., &c., in Philadelphia, probably exceed that of any other city on this continent.

Here scarcely any want, resulting from any accident or vice, from misfortune or crime, is without its means of supply. And scarcely any condition, to which misfortune may reduce the child, or the adult, is without its primeval or temporary means of amelioration.

The Foundling Hospital of St. Vincent de Paul, in Eighteenth street, above Vine, receives the infant that

is destitute of maternal assistance ; and Homes, of various names, are open and well-conducted, for children a little older.

The erring female, who would retrace her steps, or reform her life, may retreat to the Magdalen, to the House of the Good Shepherd, or to the Rosine, where gentleness and watchfulness will encourage her reformation, and time and opportunity ensure her improvement. Too little of these admirable institutions is known. Too few are found to recognize the claims of a fallen woman, or to interest themselves in aiding her to profit by the means which Christian Philanthropy has provided for her succor and reformation.

The Howard Home receives those who need employment, and are not unwilling to work for others, till a place can be found where they can work for themselves.

Day by day we see notices of some new society established to supply an existing want, and it is to the honor of the men and women of our city that few of these efforts for the benefit of the destitute ever fail.

“The Society for Alleviating the Misery of Public Prisons” may not appear to have any direct connection with such institutions as those to which we have referred, and yet they are all co-workers with our Society, as means by which our Society effects a portion of its good. We may hope that the infants reared in the asylum of St. Vincent, and in the Homes for Children, in different parts of the city, will be found, like those reared in similar institutions in France, to contribute little or nothing to the statistics of our penal houses. Good so early diffused

must have a powerfully beneficial influence on the life of the child, and the conduct of the man and woman, and thus aid in diminishing the number of prisoners.

The asylums for the older children, while working with less chance of permanent success, must save many from falling into vice.

The House of Industry affords shelter for those who have, by want or folly, been compelled to endure a little imprisonment, and need some refuge between the prison-cell and the call for labor. The Agent of the prison knows the value of this and similar institutions, and hence the purposes of his appointment, by conducting thereto those who would do well if they had the means.

The old established Orphan Asylum in West Cherry street is a nursery of goodness. St. John's Orphan Asylum, at Hestonville, in this city; St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, corner of Spruce and Seventh streets; one recently established in Germantown by the Lutheran Church; the admirable home for children the Burd Asylum, are among those institutions that most favorably affect the mind and character of our youth now, and the men of the next generation.

These, with the numerous similar institutions sustained by private and public contributions and which go to make up the beautiful character of our city, must in time have a powerful influence, not of course to rid our city of vice—that, we may not yet hope for—but to keep down the scale of virtue when otherwise the balance might be against us.

The two Houses of Refuge are under the present ex-

cellent management, fulfilling the expectations in which they were founded.

There are schools in the city, maintained by private contributions, that take from the street those that might run into vice and crime, or at least would grow up without the benefits of a sound education.

We did not intend to refer by name to the many charitable institutions of our city, not even to as many as we have noted above, and which are only a part. We have not space for a full examination even if we were acquainted with all, which we are not. It would be a science itself to know all the charitable, philanthropic and beneficial institutions of Philadelphia.

With almost all these institutions of charity this Society has an intimate relation or feels a deep interest. They afford opportunity for carrying out the views of our committees; and the Agent of the Society seems in some respects to be the minister also of these houses. The mother who leaves behind her at home (what a home!) little children, while she is expiating her error in prison, is comforted with the assurance that the Agent has conducted these orphans to some retreat where, decency, comfort, sound morals, and good manners, prevail.

The wretched woman that would escape the temptation of her former life, and the danger of her former associates, is provided for in some one of these institutions established especially for the repentants of her class. And almost daily the Agent is seen conducting or directing some retiring prisoner toward the institution that best suits her and her wants; and where a sort of

quarantine may be performed before society is again entered.

Our community is justly proud of these monuments of goodness, these homes for the homeless, these retreats of the repentant, these asylums of the decayed old, these schools for the helpless young. Thousands contribute to these funds who know nothing of the beauty of their operation. Hundreds of thousands are incidentally benefitted by their existence and administration, who scarcely know of their location. They purify the moral atmosphere, not by tempest and storm, but by withholding and withdrawing the elements of impurity.

These societies are not, indeed, the offspring of the "Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," but they work so in harmony with the principles that guide us, that we, as citizens and as philanthropists, should rejoice in their prosperity, and, as members of this society, should acknowledge and applaud the sanctified zeal of our co-worker in the cause of philanthropy.

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## PRISON SHIPS.

Are the means now in use to punish and reclaim refractory and guilty children, especially boys, sufficient to the wants of the State—especially are they sufficiently varied? Much has been done in this city for the reformation of young offenders. The Houses of Refuge have

operated most beneficially in the way for which they were designed. Black and white, male and female children have been reclaimed from vice, and made useful citizens, by the wholesome discipline of the house, and the careful attention of those who looked after them when they were sent to a new home. But abounding as are the streets and alleys of the city, and as are the very fields of the suburbs, with bad boys, it is evident that, with whatever zeal and efficacy the directors of our Houses of Refuge labor, their means are insufficient to the work. The harvest is great, and unfortunately it is ripe, but the laborers are few for the *good* work, (more are required for the bad.) There seems to be a proclivity to vice, and thence to crime, in a vast number of the young, and they are creating a sort of status and a special atmosphere for themselves, which seem to keep the wretched creatures beyond the influences of the good which the philanthropic are seeking to exercise towards them; and they are not only so many lost to society, but they are so many promoters of vice and destroyers of virtue in others. A calculating man once remarked, when looking at his empty bottle after dinner: "There are two dollars gone, with interest, forever." And so in regard to these young scamps, not only is each one lost to society, lost to the labor and good which he might perform, but the whole influence of his bad life is against the community and corrupting to others; his life and its effects are all a dead loss.

In France, as will be seen by reference to our abstract of French Prison Reports, there are "Agricultural Prisons," places of penal confinement to which those who

have violated the laws are sent, and made to do garden and farm work ; and especially is this species of punishment or discipline applied to boys and girls under sixteen years of age, and it would seem that much benefit has resulted from this mode of employing the young offender.

In Massachusetts similar attempts have been made with some success ; but there are circumstances in this country which render final or full reformation less probable from agricultural prisons than in Europe.

The experiment of a Ship Prison, or a Reformatory School for boys, on board of a ship, has been tried in in Liverpool, and is likely to prove advantageous. We know that, in this country, boys have been sent from the Reformatories and Houses of Refuge to vessels going long voyages, and, in many instances, on board whalers particularly, there has been success. But the lad who leaves the Refuge for the ship, knows nothing of his real taste for such a life, and has no experience in the duties and mode of living on ship-board, that would soften to him the first month's hard usage and rough fare. We do not yet know enough of the result of the School Ship in Liverpool, to base any argument on that experiment. But it is certain that there are as many inducements for such an undertaking in this country as in Europe. Before the late civil war, the tonnage of the mercantile marine of this country was about equal to that of Great Britain, and, of course, demanded the same immense number of seamen. We have here a vast number of young men who evince an early fondness for a seafaring life, and thousands "go to sea" who have no special taste

nor preparation for that pursuit. It thus occurs to us, that in the multitude of means thought of to make the bad boys of the city do some good for themselves and society, at least to withdraw them from their haunts of idleness and vice, and keep them out of the way of mischief, and from giving mischievous example, we might regard with some favor an attempt to establish a Reformatory School on board of a ship, where one hundred, or ten hundred boys might be placed under the charge of men conversant with the duties of keeping and navigating a ship, and be instructed in all that makes a sailor, and qualified for the quarter-deck by a thorough knowledge of "navigation" as it is practised on board our largest ships.

Congress is constantly implored to make some law by which the number of seamen could be so augmented as to ensure to our commerce a competent number of sailors to man our ships. Apprenticeship of different kinds is proposed, and some of the plans seem feasible. The fact that any such plans are suggested, is a proof that the proposed results are greatly needed. And one or two Prison Ships, into which a certain class of boys could be put, for regular ship discipline, and regular seaman-like instruction, would soon afford a part of a most desirable supply to our ships. It is true that some of the materials from which these sailors are to be made, are not of the most desirable kind, in the way of morals. But we have a right to expect much from wholesome regulations and sound moral instruction in the ship; and if it should happen that some of these apprentices or scholars should not be all that is desired



of them in the way of morals, it is probable that the most of them will be quite as good as most of those who ship in our seaports, with no responsibility to friends and relatives, no sense of home comforts,—whose conduct is constantly provoking the hard treatment of which they complain, and whose bad principles are manifested in the frequent mutinies that mark the recent history of our mercantile marine.

The war made sad havoc in navigation in this country: the carrying trade was forced into the hands of other nations, and the ships, with whose tonnage we five years ago outnumbered or equalled that of Great Britain followed the trade—they passed into foreign hands. The new state of things will multiply American ships and bring back the carrying trade. And with these restorations we should have an additional number of seamen, and the supply must be constant and perpetual.

The subject is one that deserves the attention of philanthropists, to whom we recommend its consideration. We do not now recommend the plan, only the consideration of it. Something more must be done than has yet been undertaken. And it may be of use while we point to the evils abroad, and show almost incalculable multiplication thereof, that we also suggest means of remedy at home, where we are most concerned.

## DISCIPLINE IN PRISONS.

It was intended to devote one chapter of this year's Journal to a consideration of the subject of "Prison Discipline"—to the character of punishment, its duration, and its incidents; but the unexpected length of the abstracts and notices of foreign Reports leaves too little space in which to do justice to so important a branch of a subject of legitimate inquiry and investigation. We find, in some of our reports, discussions upon the amount and character of punishments of prisoners for violating prison rules; and while these discussions are provoked by instances of what, by the writer, is called cruelty, it would seem that other modes of treatment are justified, that are not less cruel; and the practice of some prisons is marked by an abolition of one kind of severity, and equally marked by the use of another. One prison takes to itself great credit for abolishing the punishment of "bucking" as a cruel treatment of a human being, while, at the same time, it shows its approval of sound flogging by the use the cat-'o-nine-tails, "well laid on." We may hope, however, that humanity, which has triumphed in the terrible severity of bucking, will be equally successful when, in the progress of kindness, she makes an effort to free the prisoner from the punishment of the cat,

"Which Mercy, with a bleeding heart,  
Weeps when she sees inflicted on a beast."

Every form of prison discipline, almost, has been alle-

viated in respect to the evidences of a better feeling in the public, and in the discovery of good-feeling lurking in the prisoner. The freedom of the cell, at least, is permitted now, where, formerly heavy chains added to the gravity of punishment. If, then, the prisoner refuses obedience to the wholesome rules of the prison, and the commands of the officers over him, he cannot complain that he is thrown into chains and deprived of that amount of liberty which had been conceded to the good feelings and good conduct of other prisoners. He must be made to feel and confess that he has no legal right to any great kindness, that it is the reward of those who are willing to show themselves deserving consideration as they are able to show a disposition to do and to be, good.

With the exception of a few who have made violent attempts to break out of jail, we have noticed in the Philadelphia prisons scarcely any one in chains from any other cause than that of violence, or danger of violence, to themselves. They turn crazy from abuses, or the reaction of intoxication makes them insane, and then insanity manifests itself in attempts to do violence to their own person or to that of the keeper or nurse, or to destroy what is around them, and so they are restrained by chains on the ankles, and, if necessary, by the application of such means of restraint upon their hands as will prevent them, with the least pain and inconvenience to themselves, from doing injury to persons and things. With such persons neither strong language nor gentle suasions can effect much. They must be restrained, but there must be mercy as well as force applied.

It is difficult to govern a large number of persons of bad character, and many of them of very low propensities, but it is not impossible. Careful observation leads to the belief that when once the keeper, or whoever is in authority, has made it apparent that he can and will punish whenever kindness fails to produce its good work, then he has only to govern his own temper, keep down all appearance of anger, and he will still the first movement of disorder without recurrence to extraordinary severity. Perhaps too little attention is paid to the importance of self-control by those who are called to control others. It is much easier to govern others than to govern ourselves, and hence it is impossible for us to quell, without violence, a disorder in which our own passions are playing a part. The director of prisoners must first reduce his own passions to subjection, then he may direct others. "He that ruleth his spirit, is greater than he that taketh a city."



## VIEWS FROM THE WEST.

We devoted a part of this number of our Journal especially to correspondence, and we refer our readers to that chapter for much interesting matter concerning the state of prisons and almshouses in some of the counties of this State. The subjoined letter properly belongs to that division of the Journal, but having come to hand after

that part had been put to press, and, containing much useful matter, it is deemed proper to give it publication, even if not in its prescribed connection. Truth and sound ideas are never out of place.

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JEREMIAH WILLETTS, Esq., *Committee of Correspondence of "The Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," &c.*

DEAR SIR :—Your note was received in due course of mails. Pressing engagements, and a desire to make a thorough investigation of the condition and management of the prisons in our county, before reporting, prevented us from giving an earlier reply.

Our certificates of membership, and the Annual Report, were duly received. Several notices of the Society, written by one of the undersigned, and published in the editorial columns of one of our daily papers, have been forwarded according to request.

Some one has very properly said that prison-houses should be considered as moral hospitals, in which prisoners are to be confined, because it is unsafe to allow them to run at large, lest they might communicate to others the virus of their disease, and prey upon the life and property of honest and unoffending men.

Our jails and other prisons, as at present managed, are, generally, far from being of a healing or reformatory character. It would not be a wise course to collect together all the persons in a given region who are affected with the different diseases of small pox, yellow, scarlet and typhoid fevers, measles and pneumonia, and crowd them, indiscriminately, into one hospital, without affording them any relief from the appliances of medical skill and practice. A course so inhuman and absurd as this would soon decimate any region, however salubrious its climate, or healthful its situation. In such a case, the wise physician would be careful to classify the diseases, and give to each one a separate couch, and, if possible, a separate apartment. The results of promiscuous incarceration for crime are, in their kind, equally baneful.

The language of Mr. Buxton, on this subject, published in 1818, is worthy of being reproduced here. Speaking of a person—who may, or may not, be guilty—committed to a London prison for a hearing, he says :—

“ At night he is locked up in a narrow cell, with half-a-dozen of the worst thieves in London, or as many vagrants, whose rags are alive and in actual motion with vermin. He may find himself in bed, and in bodily contact between a robber and a murderer ; or between a man with a foul disease on one side, and one with an infectious disorder on the other. He may spend his days, deprived of free air and wholesome exercise. He may be prohibited from following the handicraft on which the subsistence of his family depends. He may be half-starved for want of food, and clothing and fuel. He may be compelled to live with the vilest of mankind, and, in self-defence, to adopt their habits, their language, and their sentiments. He may become a villain by actual compulsion. His health must be impaired, and may be ruined by filth and contagion ; and as for his morals, purity itself could not continue pure, if exposed for any length of time to the society with which he must associate.”

The indiscriminate confinement of men and women, of various grades of crime, in the same apartment, is an outrage on public morals, and is eminently calculated to bring about an increase rather than a diminution of crime.

Although the corresponding members of the Society, in this city, have not been altogether inactive, we cannot report much progress in the way of prison reform, or the “alleviation of the miseries” of unfortunate convicts. Some improvements, however, have been made. Although confined in the same wing in our county jail, there is no communication permitted between the males and females. Formerly they were allowed to walk in the hall at the same hours. Now, however, only one of the sexes is allowed to leave the cells at the same time. This slight improvement inspires us with hope.

Through the exertion of a few philanthropic and benevolent individuals, religious services are held in our county jail every Sabbath day, which are conducted, during the winter-season, by the students of the different theological seminaries in our sister city of Allegheny. Through the agency of the same gentlemen, a circulating library,

kindly furnished by the United States Christian Commission, has been established in our county prison. The Western Penitentiary has a regular Moral Instructor, and, we understand, a library of considerable extent.

During the past year, Major WILLIAM FREW, a corresponding member of the Prison Association, a gentleman of unbounded benevolence and liberality, and well-known here as a leader in every moral and religious reform, in a presentment of the Grand Jury, of which he was foreman, to the Court of Oyer and Terminer, dwelt elaborately and effectively upon the subjects of a Work-house and Prison Reform. The other corresponding members brought the matter before the Inspectors of the County Prison. The result of all of which is, that a bill has been introduced, by a Sonator from this District, and has already passed the Senate, authorizing the establishment of a county work house. It is our earnest wish that the bill may soon become a law, and the work-house hurried to early completion. We thought we would have been able to send you a copy of the bill, but it has failed to reach us.

We are sorry to have to state that crime is greatly on the increase in our county. We have been informed, on competent authority, that nine cases of criminality, out of every ten, are the result of intemperance. The great prevailing crime is *larceny*, committed, in more than a majority of cases, it grieves us to say, by returned soldiers, who bravely and successfully defended our country's flag. Such a state of things demonstrates the fearfully demoralizing influences of war.

During the past two weeks, there have been no less than three executions in our county jail for the atrocious crime of murder. It is unnecessary to give particulars, as these have reached you, no doubt, through the public prints.

You can rely on our cordial co-operation in any efforts you may make to secure such legislation as will remove and correct existing abuses and evils in our public prisons, as well as for the reformation of criminals. We must bear in mind, however, that the safety and welfare of society demand the punishment of crime, and that our prisons should not have such luxurious appointments as would invite rather than intimidate criminals. On the other hand, let us do every thing in our power to throw the light of Heaven into their dark and dingy cells—ornament the frosted walls with a healthful cleanliness,

and illuminate the darkened understandings of the ill-guided and infatuated convicts with the bright and unsullied rays of Divine truth. If in our power, let us give them wholesome food for both mind and body. Such a work shall have its reward.

JOHN DOUGLAS,  
ROBERT WRAY.

PITTSBURGH, January, 1866.

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## CONCLUSION.

We close another number of our annual offering, in the labors of the year just brought to a termination. If we have not achieved all that we aimed at, we know too well, and we ask others to allow for, the impediments which accident and the current of affairs throw into our pathway. We have been constant in our efforts to discharge those labors which, by assumption, become duties. The members of the committees specially designated, have been faithful to the obligations of their appointment. The County Prison has been visited by male members of our society, and by several females, whose services have been gratefully acknowledged by the inmates of the cells, which have been the scenes of gentle, earnest exhortation, and patient, constant and encouraging advice. The words of Scripture have been made familiar to many who knew little of the contents of the sacred book before, and a spirit of Christian charity has been infused into the hearts of some whose way of life before they became tenants of the cells seemed the dictation of impiety and impurity.



It is gratifying also to feel assured that a new spirit has been aroused in the interior of our State, and the subject of prison discipline and the improvement of prisoners has begun to occupy public attention in a way that promises great practical good.

We see also in other States, movements that denote a growing sense of the importance of the subject which forms the motive and the means of this society; and it is gratifying to believe that the existence and efforts of "The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons," have aroused the humane and the thoughtful of neighboring States to consider their duty in this direction, and to adopt our views and plans, and adapt them to the circumstances of their commonwealth. To do good ourselves, according to the measure of our abilities, and to be the cause in others of successful efforts in the same direction, may be allowed to be regarded as occasion for felicitation.

The monstrous increase of vice and crime in our city, and throughout the State, demands from those who would lessen the miseries of prisons, a constant watchfulness, that some of the channels of iniquity may be closed, and, if possible, some of the sources be dried up, lest the whole community be overspread with the terrible inundation.

The causes of much of the vice and crime which we now deplore have been referred to in the preceding chapters of this number of the journal. But one other immediate cause of the excess of the evil, and the multiplication of the miseries of prisons, is the breaking up of the army, by which many whose errors led them to

enlist have returned certainly not improved in morals, and thousands of camp followers, and of those who found occupation and support in some nefarious dealings in men and materials, have come back to try a new branch of crime, and disturb society by the acuteness of their schemes and the boldness of their execution.

We have sought to awaken attention to these sources of social discomfort, and we now, as it regards our Society, have only to add that their existence and multiplication must be regarded by us only as new calls for exertions to save society from future depredations, by alleviating the moral condition of the offenders, and making the cell which they occupy a place for instruction, and the punishment which they have so richly deserved, the certain means of amendment.

The idea which we have so frequently expressed with regard to the duties of this Society, must be kept constantly in view. The labors, the contributions, the endurance of those who at the penitentiary and prisons represent the Society, are in the way of what is believed to be a duty, and the binding obligation to discharge that duty is not at all diminished by the want of the success in our efforts. It is the duty of doing, and not the pleasure of receiving—it is the duty of planting and cultivating, that we are to regard, not the pleasures of the harvest. We know, and we profess to be influenced by the knowledge, that some of us must plant and others must water, but we have not professed to be able to give the increase. We must discharge our duties and await the result from Him who giveth the blessing.

While the Acting Committee report to the Society its own doings, and the doings of governments and other societies of a similar character, touching the alleviation of the miseries of public prisons, it commends for approval the exertion and sacrifices of those who have been its representatives at the prison cells, or in traversing the State. To these laborers must the Society look for the fulfilment of its high purposes and the execution of its decrees. To their conscientious devotion—to their faithful use of time and talents—to their plain but earnest dealing with the convict—we look for the fruits of all our labors. And though the humblest talent may find useful occupation in the ministrations which this Society authorizes, yet it is not less certain that the highest order of gifts, and the richest improvement of intellect, have occupation when dealing with the prisoner in his cell, if in those gifts and improvements are found a knowledge of human character and an ability to comprehend the motives of those to whom they minister. The cell of the Penitentiary is the penal abode of the criminal debased by crimes; but it is often the abode of the man of strong mind and large literary and scientific attainment. And, sometimes, the pupil in the cell reads most readily the heart and motive of his instructor, while that instructor is blind to the mental working of the pupil. One advantage the visitor always has in this contest, however. The hypocrite is sometimes deceived by his own hypocrisy. And the criminal has lost his recollection of the advantage which purity of life always gives in the judgment of character. And the visitor to the cell of the great criminal often

reads in the air and language of the convict a settled purpose of deception and fraud, with which the unhappy man half deceives himself, and thinks he has wholly deceived his patient visitor.

Great discernment, great patience, great conscientiousness and great humility, are required in one who visits the prisoner's cell in the purpose and hope of working improvement in the occupant.

We believe that many who represent this Society in the ministration to prisoners, possess, some in a great, others in a less, degree, the qualifications for their mission. Others who go with little else than a desire to do good, work on with frequent disappointment and occasional failure. Yet in time that very desire is gratified by the qualification which experience imparts, and the man or the woman that, in the ordinary intercourse of life, might be regarded rather as needing constant monition, becomes, in the course of regular visitations to prisoners, skilful and efficient in the work of goodness, and often receives the grateful thanks of men and women prisoners, whose natural powers and scientific and literary attainment are very far above those of their successful teachers.

The Acting Committee, then, commend its labors to the approval of the Society; and it commends the objects and labors of the Society to the approval of the community, by the great things proposed, and the good things achieved; and, closes its labors for the year 1865, in the belief that those labors have been useful to the public as well as gratifying to the laborers. They enter upon the discharge of the duties of 1866, in the strong

hope that success will attend their efforts to do good. And in those resolves, and in that hope, they commend themselves and their labors to Him who sent his "Angel by night to open the prison doors."

By order of the Society.

JAMES J. BARCLAY, *President.*

Attest,

JOHN J. LYTLE,

EDWARD TOWNSEND,

*Secretaries.*

*January 1, 1866.*

# LIST OF MEMBERS

OF THE

## PRISON SOCIETY.

---

### LIFE MEMBERS.

Ashmead, Henry B.  
Barclay, James J.  
Bonsall, Edward H.  
Besson, Charles A.  
Cope, Caleb  
Ellis, Charles  
Fotterall, Stephen G.  
Hacker, Jeremiah  
Ingram William  
Knight, Reeve L.  
Leaming, J. Fisher  
Love, Alfred H.  
Longstreth, William W.  
Marshall, Richard M.  
Ogden, John M.  
Perot, Joseph  
Parrish, Dillwyn

Perkins, Samuel H.  
Powers, Thomas H.  
Potter, Thomas  
Pennock, George  
Sharpless, Charles L.  
Sharpless, Samuel J.  
Sharpless, William P.  
Steedman, Miss Rosa  
Turnpenny, Joseph C.  
Thompson, John J.  
Townsend, Samuel  
Whelen, E. S.  
Willitts, Rev. A. A.  
Weightman, William  
Williams, Henry J.  
Yarnall, Charles  
Yarnall, Benjamin H.

## ANNUAL MEMBERS.

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Armstrong, Dr. Wm.    | Baines, Edward          |
| Atmore, Frederick B.  | Brown, Abram C.         |
| Ash, Joshua P.        | Bispham, Samuel         |
| Brown, John A.        | Broadbent, Samuel       |
| Bell, John, M. D.     | Beesley, Bartholomew W. |
| Biddle, William       | Brant, Josiah           |
| Barton, Isaac         | Bailey, E. W.           |
| Brown, David S.       | Beckwith, Rev. J. H.    |
| Bergen, George H.     | Brown, Mary D.          |
| Biddle, John          | Cope, Alfred            |
| Bohlen, John          | Cope, M. C.             |
| Binney, Horace, Jr.   | Caldwell, Stephen       |
| Brooks, Henry         | Cresson, John C.        |
| Bayard, James         | Claghorn, John W.       |
| Brown, Moses          | Chandler, Joseph R.     |
| Beesley, T. E., M. D. | Carter, John            |
| Bowen, Wm. E.         | Cope, Francis R.        |
| Bettle, Samuel        | Collins, Joseph H.      |
| Baldwin, Matthias W.  | Campbell, James R.      |
| Barcroft, Stacy B.    | Comegys, B. B.          |
| Burr, Wm. H.          | Childs, George W.       |
| Brown, T. Wistar      | Chance, Jeremlah C.     |
| Bettle, William       | Coates, Benjamin        |
| Boardman, H. A.       | Cope, Thomas P.         |
| Brown, N. B.          | Child, Dr. H. T.        |
| Bacon, Richard W.     | Comly, Franklin A.      |
| Bacon, Josiah         | Chamberlain, Lloyd      |
| Brock, Jonathan       | Caldwell, James E.      |
| Bailey, Joel J.       | Cooke, Jay              |
| Barclay, Andrew C.    | Collier, Daniel L.      |
| Brooke, Stephen H.    | Caldwell, Wm. Warner    |
| Brooks, Henry         | Corse, Dr. J. M.        |

Carter, John E.  
 Cope, Herman  
 Cattell, A. G.  
 Coupland, Joshua  
 Corlies, S. Fisher  
 Claghorn, C. E.  
 Crenshaw, Edmund A.  
 Campbell, Edward S.  
 Chandler, James B.  
 Coates, Geo. Morrison  
 Dawson, Mordecai L.  
 Dorsey, William  
 Dutilh, E. G.  
 Ditzler, Wm. U.  
 Dreer, Ferdinand J.  
 Dickinson, Mahlon H.  
 Davis, R. C.  
 Derbyshire, Alexander J.  
 Duane, William  
 Earp, Thomas  
 Evans, Charles, M. D.  
 Edwards, William L.  
 Emlen, Samuel, Jr.  
 Erringer, J. L.  
 Eyre, William  
 Evans, Wm., Jr.,  
 Erety, George  
 Evans, Robert E.  
 Evans, J. Wistar  
 Elkinton, Geo. M.  
 Eyre, Joshua  
 Farnum, John  
 Fraley, Frederick  
 Fullerton, Alexander  
 Farr, John C.  
 Frazer, John F.  
 Ford, William

Furness, Rev. Wm. H.  
 Ford, John M.  
 Field, Charles J.  
 Fox, Henry C.  
 Franciscus, Albert B.  
 Funk, Charles W.  
 Garrett, Thomas C.  
 Greeves, James R.  
 Gilpin John F.  
 Gummere Charles J.  
 Griffin, Edwin, M. D.  
 Gibbons, Charles  
 Hunt Uriah  
 Hockley, John  
 Holloway John S.  
 Husbaud, Thomas J.  
 Hughes, Joseph B.  
 Homer Henry  
 Hand, James C.  
 Haseltine, John  
 Hastings, Matthew  
 Huston, Samuel  
 Hacker, Morris  
 Hurley, Aaron A.  
 Hunt, William, M. D.  
 Hacker, Wm.  
 Harbert, Charles  
 Hunecker, John  
 Heiskell, Coulson  
 Higgins, John S.  
 Henderson, Robert  
 Ingersoll, Joseph R.  
 Iungerich, Louis  
 Jeanes, Joshua T.  
 Jones, Jacob P.  
 Janney, Benj. S., Jr.  
 Jackson, Charles C.



Johnson, Israel R.  
 Johnson, Ellwood  
 Johnson, Robert S.  
 Jones, Isaac T.  
 Justice, Philip S.,  
 Jones, William D.,  
 Jones, Justus P.,  
 Jones, William P.,  
 Jenks, William P.,  
 Kaighn, James E.,  
 Kinsey, William,  
 Kneeder, J. S.,  
 Knorr, G. Frederick,  
 Klapp, Joseph, M. D.,  
 Kitchen, James, M. D.,  
 Knight, Edward C.,  
 Kiderlen, Wm. L. J.,  
 Kirkpatrick, James A.,  
 Kelley, William D.,  
 Kingsbury, C. A., M. D.  
 Kane, Thomas L.,  
 Ketcham, John,  
 Klein, Rev. John,  
 Kickline, W. H.,  
 Kaub, A. L.,  
 Latimer, Thomas,  
 Lambert, John,  
 Lovering, Joseph L.,  
 Lippincott, John,  
 Lytle, John J.,  
 Longstreth, J. Cooke,  
 Lewis, Edward,  
 Lewis, Henry,  
 Ludwig, William C.,  
 Lovering, Joseph S., Jr.,  
 Laing, Henry M.,  
 Lathrop, Charles C.,

Lippincott, Joshua,  
 Luther, Rev. R. Maurice,  
 Lynch, William,  
 Lewis, F. Mortimer,  
 Leeds, Josiah W.,  
 Lukens, Dr. I.,  
 Lewis, Dr. F. W.,  
 McCall, Peter,  
 Meredith, William M.,  
 Mullen, Wm. J.,  
 Morris, Isaac P.,  
 Maris, John M.,  
 Morris, Charles M.,  
 Montgomery, Richard R.,  
 Mercer, Singleton A.,  
 Magarge, Charles,  
 Morris, Wistar,  
 Morris, Casper, M. D.,  
 McAllister, John, Jr.,  
 MacAdam, Wm. R.,  
 McAllister, John A.,  
 McAllister, Wm. Y.,  
 Marsh, Benjamin V.,  
 Morton, Samuel C.,  
 Merrill, William O. B.,  
 Morris, Anthony P.,  
 Morris, Elliston P.,  
 Magee, James F.,  
 Mellor, Thomas,  
 Milliken, George,  
 Martin, Abram,  
 Mitcheson, M. J.,  
 Morrell, R. B.,  
 Martin, Luther,  
 Norris, Samuel,  
 Neall, Daniel,  
 Needles, Wm. N.,

Nicholson, William,  
 Nesmith, Alfred,  
 Neall, William,  
 Newman, Rev. L. C.,  
 Ormsby, Henry,  
 Orme, Benjamin,  
 Purvis, William,  
 Perot, William S.,  
 Patterson, Joseph,  
 Price, Eli K.,  
 Pitfield, Benjamin H.,  
 Perot, Francis,  
 Perkins, Henry,  
 Peters, James,  
 Parrish, Joseph, M. D.,  
 Perot, Charles P.,  
 Perot, T. Morris,  
 Potts, Joseph,  
 Parry, Samuel,  
 Pearsall, Robert,  
 Palmer, Charles,  
 Patterson, Morris,  
 Pharo, Allen R.,  
 Potts, Thomas P.,  
 Quinn, John A.,  
 Richardson, Richard,  
 Robins, Thomas,  
 Robins, John,  
 Ritter, Abram, Jr.,  
 Rasin, Warner M.,  
 Robb, Charles,  
 Rehn, Wm. L.,  
 Ridgway, Thomas,  
 Rowland, A. G.,  
 Randolph, Philip P.,  
 Robinson, Thomas A.,  
 Richardson, William H.,

Richards, George K.,  
 Shippen, William, M. D.,  
 Scull, David,  
 Schaffer, William L.,  
 Scattergood, Joseph,  
 Shannon, Ellwood,  
 Simons, Geo. W.,  
 Stokes, Samuel E.,  
 Shoemaker, Benj. H.,  
 Starr, F. Ratchford,  
 Stokes, Edward D.,  
 Sloan, Samuel,  
 Smith, Joseph P.,  
 Smith, Nathan,  
 Shillingford, H. H.,  
 Stuart, George H.,  
 Stewart, Wm. S.,  
 Stuart, James,  
 Stokes, Francis,  
 Smedley, Nathan,  
 Scull, David, Jr.,  
 Townsend, Edward,  
 Taylor, Franklin,  
 Taylor, John D.,  
 Trederick, B. T.,  
 Thomas, John,  
 Taber, George,  
 Taylor, George W.,  
 Troutman, George M.,  
 Thornley, Joseph H.,  
 Thissell, H. N.,  
 Trewendt, Theodore,  
 Truman, Joseph M., Jr.,  
 Van Pelt, Peter, D. D.,  
 Vaux, George,  
 Wood, Horatio C.,  
 Wetherill, John M.,

Williamson, Passmore,  
White, John J.,  
Wainwright, William,  
Wright, Samuel,  
Willetts, Jeremiah,  
Weigand, John,  
Wilson, Dr. Ellwood,  
Welsh, William,  
Welsh, Samuel,  
Welsh, John,

Wilstach, William P.,  
Williamson, Peter,  
Wright, Isaac K.,  
Warner, Redwood F.,  
Woodward Charles W.  
Walton, Coates, .  
Whilldin, Alexander,  
Watt, John H.,  
Wetherill, John, Jr.,  
Way, J. Tunis,

# CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

OF THE

## PRISON SOCIETY.

---

|                        |   |   |   |   |   |                   |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------|
| Atlee, John L., M. D., | - | - | - | - | - | Lancaster.        |
| Allison, William J.,   | - | - | - | - | - | Burlington, N. J. |

|                       |   |   |   |   |   |             |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|
| Brodhead, William,    | - | - | - | - | - | Milton.     |
| Brown, Rapelas,       | - | - | - | - | - | Warren.     |
| Bent, Rev. Sylvester, | - | - | - | - | - | Beaver.     |
| Benedict, A. W.,      | - | - | - | - | - | Huntingdon. |
| Baker, John A.,       | - | - | - | - | - | Bloomfield. |

|                      |   |   |   |   |   |                  |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Conyngham, John M.,  | - | - | - | - | - | Wilkesbarre.     |
| Carpenter, Thomas,   | - | - | - | - | - | New Jersey.      |
| Curtin, Andrew G.,   | - | - | - | - | - | Harrisburg.      |
| Crozer, John P.,     | - | - | - | - | - | Chester, Pa.     |
| Clark, Samuel D.,    | - | - | - | - | - | New Castle, Pa., |
| Calvin, Samuel,      | - | - | - | - | - | Hollidaysburg.   |
| Curwen, John, M. D., | - | - | - | - | - | Harrisburg.      |

|                        |   |   |   |   |   |              |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| Dix, Miss D. L.,       |   |   |   |   |   |              |
| Davis, William,        | - | - | - | - | - | Stroudsburg. |
| Drinker, Henry,        | - | - | - | - | - | Montrose.    |
| Donalson, John F.,     | - | - | - | - | - | "            |
| Derrickson, David,     | - | - | - | - | - | Meadville.   |
| Douglass, John, D. D., | - | - | - | - | - | Pittsburgh.  |

|                              |   |   |   |   |   |                  |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Echroid, Henry, -            | - | - | - | - | - | Muncey, Pa.      |
| Eaton, S. M., -              | - | - | - | - | - | Franklin.        |
| Elder, Cyrus W., -           | - | - | - | - | - | Lewistown.       |
| Frew, William, -             | - | - | - | - | - | Pittsburgh.      |
| Findlay, John P., -          | - | - | - | - | - | Mercer Co.       |
| Foster, Henry D., -          | - | - | - | - | - | Greensburg.      |
| Fenton, John, -              | - | - | - | - | - | Johnstown.       |
| Graham, Rev. S. Y., -        | - | - | - | - | - | Somerset, Pa.    |
| Gibson, M., -                | - | - | - | - | - | Northumberland.  |
| Green, S. Miles, -           | - | - | - | - | - | Huntingdon.      |
| Hall, John, D. D., -         | - | - | - | - | - | Trenton, N. J.   |
| Howe, Dr. Samuel G., -       | - | - | - | - | - | Boston.          |
| Hays, A. L., -               | - | - | - | - | - | Lancaster.       |
| Holliday, H. S., -           | - | - | - | - | - | Brookville.      |
| Howe, John W., -             | - | - | - | - | - | Meadville.       |
| Ives, Timothy, -             | - | - | - | - | - | Coudersport.     |
| Jones, Morris C., -          | - | - | - | - | - | Bethlehem, Pa.   |
| Jones, J. Pringle, -         | - | - | - | - | - | Reading.         |
| Jorney, John, -              | - | - | - | - | - | Honesdale.       |
| Jessup, William H., -        | - | - | - | - | - | Montrose.        |
| Johnson, Samuel P., -        | - | - | - | - | - | Warren.          |
| Knight, Dubréé, -            | - | - | - | - | - | Wilmington, Del. |
| Kughns, Joseph, -            | - | - | - | - | - | Greensburg.      |
| Lucas, Charles, -            | - | - | - | - | - | Paris.           |
| Lesley, James, -             | - | - | - | - | - | Philadelphia.    |
| Leiber, Francis, D. C. L., - | - | - | - | - | - | New York.        |
| Lott, Charles, -             | - | - | - | - | - | Lottsville, Pa.  |

|                         |   |   |   |   |   |                 |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| Long, Henry G.,         | - | - | - | - | - | Lancaster.      |
| Lee, R. S.,             | - | - | - | - | - | Uniontown.      |
| Linn, Samuel,           | - | - | - | - | - | Bellefonte.     |
| Little, Robert,         | - | - | - | - | - | Tunkhannoch.    |
| Lawson, William C.,     | - | - | - | - | - | Milton.         |
| McClure, Alexander A.,  | - | - | - | - | - | Chambersburg.   |
| Montgomery, Rev. James, | - | - | - | - | - | Clarion Co.     |
| McEnnally, J. B.,       | - | - | - | - | - | Clearfield.     |
| McMurtrie, R. A.,       | - | - | - | - | - | Holidaysburg.   |
| Mann, John S.,          | - | - | - | - | - | Coudersport.    |
| Mercer, Ulysses,        | - | - | - | - | - | Towanda.        |
| Osterhout, Peter M.,    | - | - | - | - | - | Tunkhannoch.    |
| Olmstead, A. G.,        | - | - | - | - | - | Coudersport,    |
| Paxton, Joseph,         | - | - | - | - | - | Catawissa.      |
| Pierson, John J.,       | - | - | - | - | - | Harrisburg.     |
| Perkins, Abraham R.,    | - | - | - | - | - | Chester.        |
| Penniman, Francis,      | - | - | - | - | - | Honesdale.      |
| Pomeroy, Thomas,        | - | - | - | - | - | New Castle, Pa. |
| Perkins, Cyrus L.,      | - | - | - | - | - | Johnstown.      |
| Patterson, John S.,     | - | - | - | - | - | Mifflintown.    |
| Russell, Zenos H.,      | - | - | - | - | - | Honesdale.      |
| Rutton, James S.,       | - | - | - | - | - | Beaver.         |
| Roty, Edmund S.,        | - | - | - | - | - | Mifflintown.    |
| Riddle, Rev. M.,        | - | - | - | - | - | Bloomfield.     |
| Russell, Benjamin S.,   | - | - | - | - | - | Towanda.        |
| Sumner, Charles S.,     | - | - | - | - | - | Boston.         |
| Smeal, Robert,          | - | - | - | - | - | Glasgow.        |
| Sherman, Alfred H.,     | - | - | - | - | - | Milford.        |
| Spencer, S. S.,         | - | - | - | - | - | Erie.           |
| Sutton, John,           | - | - | - | - | - | Indiana.        |
| Stewart, William M.,    | - | - | - | - | - | "               |
| Stewart, S. Sewell,     | - | - | - | - | - | Huntingdon.     |

|                             |   |   |   |                         |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| Varrentrapp, George, M. D., | - | - | - | Frankfort on the Maine. |
| Willetts, George,           | - | - | - | Catawissa.              |
| Willetts, Jeremiah, Jr.,    | - | - | - | Haddonfield, N.         |
| Wines, Rev. E. C.,          | - | - | - | New York.               |
| Woodward, Warren J.,        | - | - | - | Reading.                |
| Walton, Sydenham, M. D.,    | - | - | - | Stroudsburg.            |
| White, R. G.,               | - | - | - | Erie.                   |
| Walker, John H.,            | - | - | - | "                       |
| Wingate, J. D., M. D.,      | - | - | - | Bellefonte.             |
| Woods, David W.,            | - | - | - | Lewistown,              |
| Young, Rev. Royal,          | - | - | - | Butler.                 |













